PAPERS

Relative to the

Rupture with SPAIN,

Laid before Both

HOUSES of PARLIAMENT,

On *Friday* the Twenty ninth Day of *January*, 1762,

By His Majesty's Command.

LONDON:

Printed by *Mark Baskett*, Printer to the King's most Excellent Majesty; and by the Assigns of *Robert Baskett*. 1762.

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Extract of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Pitt, *to the Earl of* Briſtol, *dated* Whitehall, 28 July, 1761.

WITH regard to the ſtrange Idea of the propoſed Guaranty of *Spain*, mentioned in Mr. *Stanley's* Diſpatches, as alſo with reſpect to the Engagements with *Spain*, concerning our Diſputes with that Crown, which the Duc *de Choiſeul* now avows to have been taken before the firſt Overtures of *France*, for the particular Peace with *England*, and which conſequently had been from that Time as diſingenuouſly ſuppreſſed, as they were in the Moment inſolently produced; the King's Servants were unanimouſly of Opinion utterly to reject the Thought of ſuffering thoſe Diſputes to be mixed in the Negotiation with *France*; and ſubmitted to His Majeſty, that a peremptory Declaration, to that Effect, ſhould be made to M. *de Buſſy*, giving that Miniſter withal clearly to underſtand, that it would be conſidered here as offenſive to the Dignity of the King, that farther Mention ſhould be made of ſuch an Idea, and that it is likewiſe underſtood here, that *France* at no Time has a Right to meddle in ſuch Diſcuſſions between *Great Britain* and *Spain*.

I am now to acquaint your Excellency, that M. *de Buſſy* did not come to me till laſt *Thurſday* Morning, when, after delivering to me the ſame Memorial

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I am now to acquaint your Excellency, that M. *de Buſſy* did not come to me till laſt *Thurſday* Morning, when, after delivering to me the ſame Memorial

which Mr. *Stanley* had received from the Duc *de Choiſeul*, and tranſmitted to me, he alſo gave me two ſupplemental Memorials of a moſt extraordinary Nature, Copies whereof I ſend your Excellency incloſed, together with a Copy of my Letter to that Miniſter, returning the Two ſaid Memorials, as totally inadmiſſible.

With regard to the Memorial relative to the Diſputes between *England* and *Spain*, that Piece will beſt ſpeak its own Enormity, and the extreme Offenſiveneſs of the Matter which it contains; at the ſame Time my Letter, by Order of the King, to M. *de Buſſy*, ſending back the ſaid Memorial, will ſufficiently convey to your Excellency the juſt Senſations which ſuch a Paper has excited here in the Breaſt of every one to whom it was imparted.

It is the King's Pleaſure therefore, that your Excellency ſhould immediately communicate to M. *Wall* the above-mentioned Memorial, together with my Letter to M. *de Buſſy* returning the ſame; and in caſe the *Spaniſh* Miniſter ſhall avow that this ſtrange Piece has really been authorized by the Court of *Madrid*, your Excellency will remonſtrate, with Energy and Firmneſs, the unexampled Irregularity of ſuch a Proceeding on the Part of *Spain*, not only ſtill in Amity with *Great Britain*, (though Diſcuſſions of Difficulty unluckily engage the Two Courts) but whoſe Intercourſe has hitherto profeſſed itſelf to be friendly, and whoſe declared Aims have all along ſeemed to point to an amicable Adjuſtment of the long ſubſiſting Diſputes relating to the Coaſts of *Honduras*, &c. by ſome equitable Regulation of the Enjoyment of the Privilege of cutting Logwood by the Subjects of *Great Britain*; you will farther expreſs with the utmoſt Seriouſneſs to M. *Wall*, that nothing can equal the King's Surprize and Regret at a Tranſaction ſo unprecedented, except His Majeſty's ſteady Purpoſe, and immoveable Determination, not to be diverted, by any Conſiderations, from that even Tenor of Conduct towards *Spain*, which His juſt and conſtant Care of His People dictates, and which His Royal Wiſdom and Magnanimity have hitherto purſued.

On the one Hand then, His Majeſty will by no means add Facilities for the Satisfaction of that Court, in conſideration of any Intimation, on the Part of a hoſtile Power, of Union of Councils, or of preſent or future Conjunctions; nor, on the other Hand, will His Majeſty's Equity and Moderation ceaſe to diſpoſe His Royal Mind to the ſame reaſonable Terms of Accommodation with *Spain*, with regard to ſuch Objects, and in ſuch Manner, as the King, excited by Inclination and determined by Syſtem, has, through the Courſe of this Negotiation, invariably declared Himſelf ready to embrace.

As to the Three Points mentioned in this Memorial; Firſt, Concerning the Reſtitution of Prizes made againſt the Flag of *Spain*, or ſuppoſed to have been taken in Violation of the Territory of that Kingdom, it ſuffices to ſay, That the Courts, here inſtituted to take Cognizance of all Matters of ſuch a Nature, are always open to the Parties who think fit to ſeek Redreſs in due Courſe of Juſtice; and it is ſuperfluous to obſerve, That the Miniſters of His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty are not a Tribunal to which *Great Britain* allows an Appeal.

Next, As to the ſtale and inadmiſſible Pretenſions of the *Biſcayans* and *Guiſpuſcoans* to fiſh at *Newfoundland*, on which important Point your Excellency is already ſo fully inſtructed, you will again on this Occaſion let M. *Wall* clearly underſtand, That this is a Matter held ſacred; and that no Conceſſion on the Part of His Majeſty, ſo deſtructive to this true and capital Intereſt of *Great Britain*, will be yielded to *Spain*, however abetted and ſupported: And it is ſtill hoped, that Prudence as well as Juſtice will induce that Court no longer to expect, as the Price of an Union which it is at leaſt as much her Intereſt as ours to maintain inviolate, a Sacrifice which can never be thought of.

Thirdly, With regard to Diſputes relative to the Logwood Coaſts, the King will ſtill receive with Pleaſure, agreeable to His Majeſty's repeated Declarations to the Court of *Spain*, any juſt Overtures on the Part of his Catholick Majeſty (provided they be not conveyed through the Channel of *France*, by whoſe Intervention the King will never treat of theſe Diſputes) for amicably adjuſting the ſame, and for removing effectually every Source of reaſonable Complaint or Diſpute on this Head, by terminating to mutual Satisfaction all Things relating thereto by a candid and equitable Regulation.

After the above Memorial of *France*, and the Intimation therein, little ſhort of a Declaration of a War in Reverſion, and that not at a Diſtance, held out *in terrorem* on the Part of *France* and *Spain*, M. *Wall* cannot wonder that your Excellency is ordered by His Majeſty, as you hereby are, to deſire again, in this Conjuncture, a proper Explanation with regard to the Naval Armaments that have been ſo long preparing in the various Ports of *Spain*: And his Excellency cannot but himſelf be ſenſible how ſtrongly the King is called upon, in the Order of Things, and from the indiſpenſable Motives of what He owes to His Crown and People, to expect that the Court of *Madrid* will come to ſome explicit and categorical Eclairciſſement with regard to the Deſtination of her Fleets, as well as with reſpect to her Diſpoſitions to maintain and cultivate Friendſhip and good Correſpondence with *Great Britain:* And this Meaſure is become the more highly neceſſary, as the Emiſſaries and Partizans of *France* here are not a little active in endeavouring to infuſe, particularly into People's Minds in the City, for Purpoſes too obvious to mention, that a Rupture with *Spain*, in Conjunction with *France*, is approaching.

Although in the Courſe of this Inſtruction to your Excellency, I could not, with ſuch an inſolent Memorial from *France* before me, but proceed on the Suppoſition, that, inſidious as that Court is, ſhe could not dare to commit in ſuch a Manner the Name of his Catholick Majeſty, without being authorized thereto: I muſt not, however, conceal from your Excellency, that it is thought poſſible here that the Court of *France*, though not wholly unauthorized, may, with her uſual Artifice in Negotiation, have put much Exaggeration into this Matter; and in caſe, upon entering into Remonſtrance on this Affair, you ſhall perceive a Diſpoſition in M. *Wall* to explain away and diſavow the Authorization of *Spain* to this offenſive Tranſaction of *France*, and to come to categorical and ſatisfactory Declarations relatively to the final Intentions of

Spain, your Excellency will, with Readineſs and your uſual Addreſs, adapt yourſelf to ſo deſirable a Circumſtance, and will open to the Court of *Madrid* as handſome a Retreat as may be, in caſe you perceive from the *Spaniſh* Miniſter that they ſincerely wiſh to find one, and to remove, by an effectual Satisfaction, the unfavourable Impreſſions which this Memorial of the Court of *France* has juſtly and unavoidably made on the Mind of His Majeſty.

Tranſlation of a Memorial relating to Spain, *delivered to Mr. Secretary* Pitt *by* M. de Buſſy, *July* 23d, 1761.

AS it is eſſential, even as *France* and *England* deſire it, that the projected Treaty of Peace ſhould ſerve as a Baſis to a ſolid Reconciliation between the Two Crowns, which may not be diſturbed by the Intereſts of a Third Perſon, and the Engagements which the one or the other Court may have taken prior to their Reconciliation, the King of *Spain* ſhall be invited to guaranty the Treaty of future Peace between the King and the King of *Great Britain*. This Guaranty will obviate preſent and future Inconveniencies with regard to the Solidity of the Peace.

The King will not conceal from His Britannick Majeſty, that the Differences of *Spain* with *England* alarm him; and make him fear, if they were not adjuſted, a new War in *Europe* and in *America*. The King of *Spain* has truſted to His Majeſty the Three Points of Diſſention which ſubſiſt between his Crown and the *Britiſh* Crown, which are,

Firſt, The Reſtitution of ſome Prizes made during the preſent War on his Catholick Majeſty's Flag, and the Satisfaction due for the Violation of the *Spaniſh* Territory by the *Engliſh* Navy.

Second, The Liberty to the *Spaniſh* Nation of the Fiſhery on the Bank of *Newfoundland*.

Third, The Deſtruction of the *Engliſh* Eſtabliſhments formed on the *Spaniſh* Territory in the Bay of *Honduras*.

Theſe Three Articles may eaſily be adjuſted according to the Juſtice of the Two Sovereigns; and the King earneſtly wiſhes, that ſome Medium may be found, which may content the *Spaniſh* and *Engliſh* Nations on theſe Two Points: But he cannot conceal from *England* the Danger which he ſees, and of which he ſhall be obliged to partake, if theſe Objects, which appear ſenſibly to affect his Catholick Majeſty, ſhould end in War. Therefore His Majeſty thinks it a primary Conſideration, for the Advantage and the Solidity of the Peace, that, at the ſame Time that this deſirable Bleſſing ſhall be concluded between *France* and *England*, His Britannick Majeſty may terminate His Differences with *Spain*, and may conſent that his Catholick Majeſty ſhall be invited to guaranty the Treaty which is to reconcile, God grant for ever, the King and the King of *England*.

As to the reſt, his Majeſty does not truſt his Fears in this reſpect to the Court of *London*, but with the moſt upright and the moſt frank Intentions to

prevent

prevent every Thing which may disturb, for the future, the Union of the *French* and *English* Nations; and he desires His Britannick Majesty, whom he supposes animated with the same Desire, to acquaint him naturally with his Opinion on so essential an Object.

Translation of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Pitt *to* M. de Bussy.

Whitehall, July 24, 1761.

SIR,

HAVING explained myself, in our Conversation of Yesterday, on certain Engagements of *France* with *Spain*, concerning the Discussions between this last Crown and *Great Britain*, the which your Court did not, till this Moment, announce to us had been taken before their first Proposals were made here for the particular Peace of the two Crowns; and as you desired, for the greater Exactness, to take a Note of what passed between us on so weighty a Subject; I renew to you, Sir, by Order of the King, Word for Word, the same Declaration which I made to you Yesterday; and apprizing you again of the King's most sincere Sentiments of Friendship and real Consideration towards His Catholick Majesty in every Thing that is reasonable and just, I am again most plainly to declare to you, in the Name of His Majesty, That He will not suffer the Disputes with *Spain* to be mixed in any Shape whatsoever with the Negotiation of the Peace of the two Crowns; to which I am to add, that it will be even considered as offensive to the Dignity of the King, and not compatible with the Good Faith of the Negotiation, to make further Mention of such an Idea.

Moreover, it is not understood that *France* has, at any Time, a Right to intermeddle in like Discussions between *Great Britain* and *Spain*.

Such just and indispensible Considerations have determined the King to order me to send you back the inclosed Memorial concerning *Spain*, as totally inadmissible.

I also send you back, Sir, as totally inadmissible, the Memorial relating to the King of *Prussia*, as affecting the Honour of *Great Britain*, and the unshaken Fidelity with which His Majesty will fulfil His Engagements with His Allies.

I have the Honour to be, *&c.*

W. PITT.

Extract of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to Mr. Secretary* Pitt, *dated* Segovia, Auguſt 31, 1761. *Received* September 11*th.*

I Muſt now acknowledge the Receipt of a Copy of your Letter of the 24th of *July* to M. de *Buſſy*, together with Copies of two Memorials preſented by that Miniſter, both of which Performances you returned back as totally inadmiſſible.

A few Hours after the Meſſenger *Ardouin* arrived at *Segovia*, I went to St. *Ildephonſo*, where I paſſed a conſiderable Time with Gen. *Wall*; and as I have had four other Conferences with his Excellency ſince the firſt, I will ſet down, with the utmoſt Preciſion in my Power, all that has paſſed between us.

It was unneceſſary for me to communicate what related to the Negotiations for Peace with the Court of *Verſailles*, as the Marquis *Grimaldi* had tranſmitted Copies of that whole Tranſaction; however from my ſhewing a Readineſs to give that Mark of His Majeſty's Confidence in the *Spaniſh* Miniſtry, M. *Wall* told me, the Catholick King was truly ſenſible of His Majeſty's great Attention towards *Spain*, and was convinced the Diſtance of *England* from hence occaſioned this Court's not receiving the earlieſt Information from us of what was in Agitation.

I then delivered to M. *Wall* the Copy of the Memorial relating to *Spain*, deſiring him to read it over, and to acquaint me whether it was Word for Word ſuch as had been authorized from hence; on returning it to me, his Excellency ſaid it was *verbatim* what had been ſent by Order of the Catholick King to *Verſailles*; whereupon I read your Letter to M. de *Buſſy* in which the Memorial was returned, ſaying, It was impoſſible for me to give a ſtronger Idea of the Impreſſion that irregular Proceeding had made in *England*, than by communicating to this Court the Manner in which ſuch an unexampled Overture had been received, looked into, and ſent back, by the King's Command.

Nothing has been omitted, on my Part, to ſhew what an unparallelled Proceeding this was from a King, not only in Amity with *Great Britain*, but whoſe Profeſſions (notwithſtanding the difficult Diſcuſſions which had ſo long and ſo unhappily ſubſiſted between the Two Crowns) had been uniformly calculated to convince my Court, the only Aim of that of *Madrid* was amicably to adjuſt our Differences concerning the Logwood Coaſts.

With relation to the Idea of the propoſed Guaranty of *Spain*, I deſired to know of M. *Wall*, Wherefore a Power that had no Share in the War was to be invited to guarantee the future Peace? And I entered very minutely into the Engagements taken by *Spain* with *France* in regard to our Diſputes with the Catholick King; when I could not help expreſſing the trueſt Regret to find, not only of how long Standing thoſe Engagements were, from the

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Duke of *Choiſeul*'s own Confeſſion, but alſo to perceive, they had been ſo induſtriouſly concealed during ſuch a Space of Time, and to find them now produced in ſo inſolent a Manner by our Enemies, becauſe (for Views too obvious to be mentioned) the *French* Miniſtry looked upon that Period as the moſt critical Moment; yet I perſuaded myſelf the proper Reception this Tranſaction had met with at Home would clear up all M. *de Choiſeul*'s Doubts, and blaſt all his Expectations, ſince he could not fail being at preſent convinced, no Menaces of a Union of Councils, nor any Threats intimating little leſs than the Reverſionary Declaration of War from *Spain* and *France* (perhaps not far off) could ſhake, much leſs intimidate or force, *England* to permit her *Spaniſh* Diſputes either to be blended with our preſent Negotiation with the Court of *Verſailles*, or to ſuffer *France* upon any Occaſion to meddle in our Diſcuſſions with his Catholick Majeſty; and moreover, M. *Buſſy* had been acquainted in the moſt explicit Terms, That it would hereafter be conſidered as offenſive to the King's Dignity, if any further Mention was made of ſuch Ideas: This I informed M. *Wall* was the energick Language that had been held to the *French* Miniſter at *London*; and that my Orders were, to remonſtrate with his Excellency on the unprecedented Conduct of *Spain* in conveying, at ſuch a Conjuncture, through ſuch a Channel, and in ſuch Terms, her Sentiments to *Great Britain*. But I was commanded, whilſt I expreſſed His Majeſty's Surprize at ſo unheard-of a Tranſaction, equally to make known the King's Regret to find the Court of *Madrid* had taken ſuch a Step; yet His eminent Virtues would not permit even theſe Conſiderations, or theſe Motives, in any way to divert His unalterable Reſolution of adhering to the ſteady Purpoſe and uniform Conduct His Royal Wiſdom had hitherto obſerved towards *Spain*.

I repeatedly enforced how ſtrong my Inſtructions were, to convince this Court it was not to be expected or imagined, that the Intimations of a hoſtile Prince, or any Inſinuations of a Combination of Forces or Union of Intereſts between *Spain* and *France*, would in the leaſt facilitate the Satisfaction which was aſked from hence in relation to our Differences in *America*. But the ſame Magnanimity that dictated to the King theſe Sentiments, preſcribed alſo to His Majeſty's Equity the following Determination, which was the conſtant Language I had invariably held by my Sovereign's Commands, of His Royal Intention, being ever and alike diſpoſed to come to any reaſonable Terms of Accommodation with *Spain*, finally to adjuſt our long ſubſiſting Differences.

With regard to the Three Points contained in the Memorial preſented as the *Spaniſh* Grievances, after dwelling upon the exact and unimpeached Juſtice of the *Engliſh* Courts of Judicature, I obſerved, it was the Fault of the Parties who thought themſelves aggrieved, if they did not ſeek Redreſs in that due Courſe which was ever open for them to purſue, ſince there were the regular Courts eſtabliſhed to enquire into all Matters of that Nature, and thoſe who were not ſatisfied with the Decrees iſſued from thence, had always Recourſe to the Lords of Appeals; but that, it muſt be owned, it gave no favourable Opi-

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nion of a Cauſe about which the Clients only clamoured, without ſeeking to have it decided in the proper Forms of Law: And it was ſuperfluous to add, how many Inſtances might be met with to aſcertain this Aſſertion; therefore the Firſt Article might be looked upon only in order to ſwell the Appearance of Grievances: And in all Lights, the *French* Miniſters would never be authorized by us to take Cognizance of what was ſolely to be decided by *Engliſh* Tribunals.

As to the Second Article, containing the Claim ſo often ſet up by the *Biſcayans* and *Guipuſcoans*, to fiſh at *Newfoundland*, and as often denied by *England*, I had, in the cleareſt Terms I could make uſe of, ſhewed, that the firſt Diſcovery of that Iſland was made at the Expences and by the Command of *Henry* VII. and I had likewiſe demonſtrated the uninterrupted Poſſeſſion of it, from that Time to the preſent Date, to have belonged to the *Engliſh*, from their being conſtantly ſettled there, whilſt the *Spaniards* never had any Eſtabliſhments in thoſe Parts; therefore it was abſolutely impoſſible for *Great Britain* to make the leaſt Conceſſion in ſo clear a Right, and it was hoped *Spain* would no longer expect, as the Price of our Union, a Sacrifice which could never be granted by the Court of *London*.

Laſtly, concerning the Diſputes about the Coaſt of *Honduras*, I could add nothing to the repeated Declarations I had made in the King's Name, of the Satisfaction with which His Majeſty would receive any juſt Overture from *Spain* (upon Condition that *France* was not to be the Channel of that Conveyance) for terminating amicably, and to mutual Satisfaction, every reaſonable Complaint on this Matter, by propoſing ſome equitable Regulation for ſecuring to us the long enjoyed Privilege of cutting Logwood (an Indulgence confirmed by Treaty, and of courſe authorized in the moſt ſacred Manner) nor could I give ſtronger Aſſurances than the paſt, of His Majeſty's ſteady Purpoſe to cauſe all Eſtabliſhments on the Logwood Coaſts, contrary to the Territorial Juriſdiction of *Spain*, to be removed.

After having gone through theſe ſeveral Points, General *Wall*, as he had done upon a former Occaſion, deſired me to put into Writing the principal Heads of my Diſcourſe, promiſing me to make a proper Uſe of them at the *Deſpachos*, for his incorrect Memory rendered ſuch Notes abſolutely neceſſary for him: I readily complied with his Excellency's Requeſt, as I was certain by that Method the Catholick King would be exactly informed of what I meant to have conveyed to his Knowledge. The incloſed Paper marked *A* is the Copy of what I wrote down and gave to the *Spaniſh* Miniſter.

I proceeded by ſaying, although a precipitated Step could not be entirely recovered, yet it might be remedied; for, without any formal Retractation, the expreſſing ſome Concern for what had not been conſidered in all its Conſequences, might ſoften, and even wipe off, any Impreſſions, however unfavourable, that might, nay, muſt have been made on the Mind of His Majeſty by this Memorial from the Court of *France*.

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As I thought I perceived a Diſpoſition in M. *Wall*, in ſome Meaſure, to diſavow the Offenſiveneſs of this Step, I did not loſe the Opportunity of ſuggeſting every Pretext, and offering to his Excellency all Kinds of Handles to explain away what had ſo unavoidably given Diſguſt in *England*; and I endeavoured, in purſuance of what you ſo much recommended to me, to adapt myſelf to thoſe Circumſtances which were of a Nature to furniſh this Court with the beſt Retreat imaginable.

I have here related, without Interruption, what has been alledged by me, and have ſet down all the Arguments I made uſe of; therefore I will now proceed to give an Account of what was inſiſted on by General *Wall*, in ſupport of his own Reaſonings, or advanced by his Excellency in Contradiction to mine.

The *Spaniſh* Miniſter began by acquainting me, that M. *Grimaldi* had conveyed to him all that had paſſed, either in Writing or in Diſcourſe, between yourſelf, Sir, and M. *de Buſſy*, as well as the Language Mr. *Stanley* had held with the Duke of *Choiſeul* on the Memorial relating to *Spain*. His Excellency told me, the moſt Chriſtian King having early intimated his Deſire here, that his Catholick Majeſty ſhould guarantee the intended Peace between the Courts of *London* and *Verſailles*; in order to render that Peace more permanent, the King of *Spain* had thought proper to agree to that Propoſal's being made by *France* to *England*, as well as to conſent to *France*'s expreſs Offer of endeavouring to accommodate the Diſputes ſubſiſting between *England* and *Spain*, at the ſame Time ſhe was trying to put an End to a War which had laſted ſo long between the *Britiſh* and *French* Crowns: But he affirmed to me, that the Intention of the Court of *Madrid* in aſſenting to that Propoſal, was totally void of any Deſign to retard the Peace, and abſolutely free from the leaſt Intention of giving Offence to His Majeſty, tho' it appeared that Step had been productive of different Effects; that, as to *England*'s declaring, ſhe never would add Facilities towards accommodating her Differences with another Sovereign, in conſideration of any Intimation from a Power at War, or the Threatenings of an Enemy, the Catholick King could not but applaud thoſe Sentiments in His Majeſty, which he felt ſo ſtrongly within himſelf; adding, it was certain the Court of *London* was at Liberty to reject any Propoſals coming from the *French* Miniſtry, yet that could not in any way influence the King of *Spain*'s communicating whatever Meaſures he thought conducive to his Intereſts, to the moſt Chriſtian King, his Catholick Majeſty's Friend, Ally, and near Relation.

M. *Wall* purſued his Diſcourſe, by acquainting me with *France*'s having ſpontaneouſly offered to the Catholick King, (in caſe the Diſputes of *Great Britain* and *Spain* ſhould, at any Time hereafter, occaſion a Rupture between our Two Courts) to unite her Forces with thoſe of *Spain*, to prevent the *Engliſh* Encroachments in *America* upon his Catholick Majeſty's Territory: An Offer which the *Spaniſh* Monarch had received with that Cordiality which was due to a Friend, who was determined even to involve herſelf in a freſh War, in order to defend *Spain*.

General *Wall* then aſked me, Whether it was poſſible to be imagined in *England*, the Catholick King was ſeeking to provoke us; eſpecially at a Time that the Court of *London* was in the moſt flouriſhing and moſt exalted Situation it had ever known, occaſioned by the greateſt Series of Proſperities that any ſingle Nation had ever met with? And he aſſured me, the Catholick King, both before and at preſent, eſteemed as well as valued the frequent Profeſſions I had made, by Command from my Court, of His Majeſty's Deſire to adjuſt our mutual Differences amicably; but he perceived, the Terms on which thoſe Diſputes were ſought to be accommodated, occaſioned the Difficulty. The Catholick King, he ſaid, did not think *England* would look upon the *French* Miniſters as a Tribunal to which the Court of *London* would make an Appeal, nor meant it as ſuch, when the Firſt Article of Grievances was conveyed through that Channel. As to the Second, the Claim of the *Guipuſcoans* and *Biſcayans* to fiſh for *Bacallao*; it was what *Spain* had always inſiſted upon, and never had receded from by any Treaty. And Laſtly, concerning *England*'s evacuating all the uſurped Settlements on the Logwood Coaſts, it had never been offered, but upon ſuch Conditions as were inconſiſtent with the Dignity of the *Spaniſh* Crown to accept of; ſince the Court of *London* would only conſent, that, previous to her ſending Orders to thoſe unjuſt Settlers to remove, and to cauſe the Fortifications to be demoliſhed, the Catholick King ſhould be compelled to make known to the *Engliſh*, in what Manner the Logwood was to be aſſured to the King's Subjects, notwithſtanding the *Spaniſh* Monarch had repeatedly given his Royal Word, a Method ſhould be found out for that Purpoſe; and that, till it was adjuſted in what Manner *Great Britain* ſhould enjoy that Privilege, the *Engliſh* Cutters of Logwood ſhould continue, without Interruption or Moleſtation of any Kind, to carry on their Commerce upon the Footing they at preſent exerciſe it. His Catholick Majeſty only aſking, that, for his own Royal Decorum, the uſurped Eſtabliſhments ſhould be relinquiſhed by the *Engliſh*, to prove that good Faith we picqued ourſelves upon, and to convince *Spain*, we did not maintain thoſe forcible Poſſeſſions, as Pledges, which ſooner or later we imagined would compel the Court of *Madrid* to grant us our own Terms, and in the mean Time to increaſe (which the *Britiſh* Subjects did daily) the Encroachments upon the Coaſts of *Honduras*.

This, Sir, to the beſt of my Recollection, is what has been advanced or replied by General *Wall* at our different Interviews. Yet, for greater Accuracy, and a fuller Explanation of the Sentiments of his Excellency, I deſire Leave to refer you to the incloſed *Spaniſh* Paper marked (B), with the Tranſlation diſtinguiſhed by the Letter (C), which includes the Subſtance of what the Secretary of State firſt ſpoke from, then read to me, and afterwards gave into my Hands; conſenting to let me ſend it to *England*, not as a Memorial, but to be conſidered in the ſame Light with that Paper which I had agreed to give his Excellency, containing ſome Notes, to enable him to repreſent to his Royal Maſter, with Candour, what I had been ordered to lay a Streſs upon;

upon; and this was delivered to me with the ſame View; a Proof whereof was, that there was no Date to either of our Writings, no Signature, nor any Title prefixed.

At my firſt Conference, I told General *Wall* I had received the King's Commands to deſire his Excellency would, in the preſent Conjuncture, give me a proper Explanation with regard to the Naval Armaments which had been carried on in the various Ports of this Country; and to aſk for an explicit Eclairciſſement with relation to the Deſtination of the *Spaniſh* Fleet; as well as to inform myſelf particularly, from his Excellency, what were the Diſpoſitions of the Catholick King to maintain Friendſhip, and to cultivate a good Correſpondence with His Majeſty; alledging, that this Meaſure was judged by *England* to be the more abſolutely neceſſary at preſent, as the *French* Emiſſaries, and the Partiſans of our Enemies, were attempting, by every Method, to propagate the Belief of an approaching Rupture with *Spain*, in Conjunction with *France*; therefore the King thought himſelf ſtrongly called upon, from the indiſpenſable Motives of what His Majeſty owes to His Crown, and to His People, to expect to have a categorical Anſwer to the Queſtions I had put, by His Royal Command. The laſt Time I ſaw M. *Wall*, which was the Fifth Meeting we had together, I renewed thoſe Queſtions, and then received exactly the ſame Anſwer which had been given me the firſt Time; That *Spain* was ſurprized *Great Britain* ſhould take Umbrage at any Naval Preparations, ſhe was, or had been making ſince the Acceſſion of his preſent Catholick Majeſty; for, including both the Ships of the Line, as well as the Frigates, the whole Number did not exceed in all that of Twenty; which M. *Wall* aſſured me were, by ſeveral, fewer than thoſe which had been equipped during the Reign of the late King *Ferdinand*. His Excellency told me, that, with regard to their Deſtination, ſome were frequently going backwards and forwards between this Kingdom and *Naples*; others were intended to convoy the homeward, or outward-bound Flotas, Aſſogues, or Regiſter Ships; and the remaining ones were to ſerve as a Check upon the *Barbary* Corſairs, and to defend their Coaſts, or ſmaller Veſſels, from Inſults: And in relation to the Third Queſtion, his Catholick Majeſty's Diſpoſition and Profeſſions had invariably been the ſame, and were ever meant to cement and cultivate the Friendſhip ſo happily ſubſiſting between our Two Courts.

I hope, Sir, it will be found I have minutely obeyed every Command I have been honoured with from His Majeſty. I am but too conſcious of the unreaſonable, and (I apprehend) tireſome Length of this Diſpatch, which, on account of my frequent Interviews with the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, and from my unfeigned Zeal for the Service of my Gracious Royal Maſter, has inſenſibly led me on to be as particular as it was poſſible on ſo intereſting a Subject, and in ſo critical a Conjuncture. I wiſh this Narration had proved a more ſatisfactory one; yet, when the Stile of General *Wall*'s incloſed Paper is compared with that which was given to me laſt *January*, I hope it will appear there is leſs Peeviſhneſs at preſent here, than what was ſo ſtrongly exhibited ſome Months ago. The ſtrong Avowal of a moſt intimate Cordiality between *Spain* and *France*,

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contained in this laſt Production of the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State's, has hurt me. I could not avoid acquainting his Excellency, that it ſeemed calculated rather to ſerve as an Apology for the Proceedings of the Court of *Verſailles*, and to be a Juſtification of the Conduct of the *French* Miniſters, than for any other Purpoſe.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Tranſlation of a Paper marked A, *incloſed in the Earl of* Briſtol's *Letter of* Aug. 31, 1761.

I.

MONS. *de Buſſy* having preſented to Mr. *Pitt* a Memorial on the Part of his Court, concerning the Diſcuſſions of *Great Britain* with *Spain*; the King my Maſter ordered his Secretary of State to ſend back the ſaid Memorial, as totally inadmiſſible.

II.

It has been told him, that *France* has not had, at any Time, a Right to meddle in our Diſputes with the Court of *Madrid*.

III.

Further, that it would be looked upon as offenſive to the King's Dignity, and incompatible with the good Faith of the Negotiation, that further Mention ſhould be made of the Differences of our Courts.

IV.

Orders to make Remonſtrances on the Conduct of *Spain*, who, whilſt ſhe lived in good Correſpondence with *England*, and has always declared that Her Intention was, to put an End to our long Diſputes by ſome amicable Arrangement, makes uſe of ſuch a Voice as that of an Enemy to convey her Grievances to us.

V.

Although the King will never hearken to any Thing on account of an Intimation from a Power at War, threatening an Union of Counſels, and hinting a future War, (perhaps not diſtant on the Part of *Spain* and *France*); notwithſtanding that, His Majeſty, from an uniform Conduct, and conſtantly inclined to give every Satisfaction to his Catholick Majeſty, continues ready amicably to terminate every Thing which can occaſion the leaſt Coolneſs between the Two Kingdoms.

VI.

With regard to the Three Articles recited in the Memorial as Grievances of *Spain*, I am ordered to ſay, Firſt, That the Courts of Juſtice, eſtabliſhed

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in *England*, to decide Cauſes relative to the Reſtitution of Prizes made on the *Spaniards*, or thought to be in violation of the Catholick King's Territory, are always open to all thoſe who bring their Complaints thither; and that the Miniſters of the moſt Chriſtian King are not acknowledged in *England* as a Tribunal, before which *England* will conſent that an Appeal be brought.

VII.

As to the Second Article; The firſt Diſcovery of the Iſland of *Newfoundland*, having been proved to have been made at the Expence, and on the Account, of King *Henry* VII. the uninterrupted Poſſeſſion of that Iſland, by the Settlements of the Subjects of *England* ever ſince the ſaid Epoch to this Hour, has alſo been demonſtated: Further, *Spain* having never made any Settlement there, and the pretended Right of the *Biſcayners*, and *Guipuſcoans* not being at any Time admitted, the King can never conſent to the leaſt Conceſſion on this Article; and flatters himſelf that *Spain* will never expect, as the Price of an Union ſo much to be wiſhed for by the Two Nations, a Sacrifice on the Part of *Great Britain*, which can never be agreed to in any Shape.

VIII.

On the Subject of Logwood, which makes the Third Object, His Majeſty is conſtant in His Intentions to cauſe all the Settlements, contrary to the Territorial Juriſdiction of the Catholick King in *America*, to be evacuated: And will receive with Pleaſure any juſt Overture on the Part of the Court of *Madrid*, (provided that it does not paſs through the Channel of the *French* Miniſters) for accommodating our Differences, and for putting an End to every Complaint, by finding ſome Means for granting Logwood to us, without Inconvenience to *Spain*.

Tranſlation of a Paper delivered to the Earl of Briſtol *by General* Wall, *at* St. Ildefonſo, Aug. 28, 1761. *Marked* (C).

THE Memorial which M. *de Buſſy* preſented to Mr. *Pitt* by Order of his Court, ſetting forth the Deſire the moſt Chriſtian King had to terminate his Peace with *England*, under the Guaranty of the Catholick King, and that, at the ſame Time, the Diſputes between the Courts of *Madrid* and *London*, might in ſome Shape be accommodated, is a Step, which his Catholick Majeſty will not deny has been taken with his full Conſent, Approbation, and Pleaſure: However, he will affirm and does affirm to the Court of *Great Britain*, and to the whole World, that his Intention in conſenting thereto, as well as in approving of it, was not to offend the Dignity of that Crown, or retard its Peace; on the contrary, to conſolidate it, and, in all human Poſſibility, to perpetuate it. It may have been productive of contrary Effects: For, as moſt Actions bear different Conſtructions, this has not received in *London* the ſame that was put upon it at *Madrid* and *Paris*; and both Courts have been concerned at diſpleaſing the King of *Great Britain*, and indiſpoſing Him from continuing the Negotiations

of a Peace with *France*, and of regulating His Differences with *Spain*, jointly or ſeparately, it is equal to both Monarchs, ſince they have only Good in view; tho' they will never give up to *England* a Right, which, without Example, it pretends to aſſume, of hindering the one from interfering in the Affairs of the other, for their mutual Aſſiſtance, as their Union, Friendſhip, and Relationſhip require.

Thus the End being explained, which the Courts of *Madrid* and *Paris* propoſed by the Delivery of the Memorial, the Original Motive will now be explained with the ſame Sincerity.

There is the greateſt Harmony between the Two Courts: And who, in this Age, can be ſurpriſed there ſhould be that Harmony between the Kings of *Spain* and *France*? His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty has communicated to his Catholick Majeſty, in conſequence, all the Steps taken to bring about a Peace from the very Beginning of the War. His Catholick Majeſty has acquainted his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, as often as there has been Occaſion, with his Affairs at the Court of *London*.

His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty reſolved to purchaſe Peace at the dear Price of the Propoſals contained in the Plan delivered by the Duke of *Choiſeul* to Mr. *Stanley*; and One of the Motives which induced him to ſo great a Sacrifice was, in order to ſecure, for many Years, the Peace of his Kingdoms, by ſatisfying at once the Views of the *Engliſh*. And he ſignified, at the ſame Time, to his Catholick Majeſty, his Deſire of cutting ſhort thoſe Beginnings of Diſagreement between him and His Britiſh Majeſty, on account of his Grievances with the Court of *London*, with this kind Expreſſion, That, if a Rupture enſued between *England* and *Spain*, *France* will have miſcarried in the above Object of her preſent Sacrifices, as ſhe will be neceſſitated to aſſiſt in defending *Spain*, and involve herſelf in a new War. Was the Catholick King to deſpiſe ſo generous an Overture? It was not to be expected. Ought *England* to be ſurpriſed at it? As little. It being grounded upon this, that if *England* ſaw that *France* attacked the Dominions of *Spain*, particularly in *America*, ſhe would run immediately to her Defence, for her own Conveniency, as well as becauſe ſhe had, equally with *France*, guarantied them. Well, what was to be done? ſaid the Two Courts, They agreed, that *France* ſhould declare to *England*, That, as ſhe was coming to a Compoſition with her, ſhe deſired that nothing might remain, not even a Miſtruſt, of returning to a freſh War; and that ſhe ſhould exhort *England* to terminate her Diſputes with *Spain* to their mutual Satisfaction, which alone occaſioned any Doubt.

Both Courts thought that *France* could not take a Step that ſhewed better Faith towards *England*, and there is no Doubt but ſo it appears; without examining why or wherefore it is thought otherwiſe at *London*, or in what it offends the Dignity of the *Britiſh* Monarch. What proceeding more noble can an Enemy hold with another, than *France* does to *England*, in ſaying, To conclude a Peace with *England*, I yield up this and that; however, at the ſame Time I am reſolved to make this Sacrifice, I cannot but ſay, I wiſh to

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ſecure a Peace for many Years, and therefore ſhould be glad that *England* would ſettle with *Spain* their Subjects of Diſagreement together, becauſe otherwiſe they may again entangle me in a freſh War.

Yet *England* finds Reaſon for remonſtrating againſt the Conduct of *Spain* hereupon; expreſſing, that, at a Time ſhe is living in good Harmony with *Spain*, and has declared her Deſire of terminating her long Differences by ſome amicable Adjuſtment, *Spain* makes uſe of *England*'s Enemy as the Channel of her Grievances. It is repeated in Anſwer, that *Spain* only conſented that *France* ſhould take this Step, in as much as it appeared not only inoffenſive, but, on the contrary, to come more from an honeſt and ſincere Friend than an Enemy; and that *Spain* is far from thinking to irritate *England*. She would not have ſtaid to chuſe her Time ſo ill, if Views of Prudence and Moderation had not contained her, and above all, the never-loſt Hopes of finding Juſtice in the *Britiſh* Court.

How many Proofs has not *Spain* already given, of her aiming to obtain a Redreſs of her Grievances, without pretending it otherwiſe than in a friendly Manner? Six Years ago, the *Spaniſh* Governors being ordered to oppoſe the Intruſion of Foreigners upon the *American* Coaſts, an Expedition was made to diſlodge the *Engliſh* from ſome new Eſtabliſhments; and the Court of *London* having reclaimed againſt an offenſive Method, which happened exactly at the Time ſhe was coming to a Rupture with *France*, from whence it might have been inferred that *Spain*, in ſeizing that Conjucture, ſought to ſtreighten *England*, (then leſs powerful, and not ſo ſure of her happy Succeſſes as at preſent,) the Catholick King commanded, in order to take away all kind of Miſtruſt from *England*, that thoſe Orders ſhould be ſuperſeded; and even to reſtore to the *Engliſh* whatever Effects might have been taken from them; and His *Britiſh* Majeſty, offered to ſettle theſe Points in a friendly Manner. During theſe ſame Six Years, we have not diſcontinued to ſolicit, without advancing One Day more than the other: And during that Time (who would believe it?) the *Engliſh* have increaſed their incroached Eſtabliſhments upon that Coaſt.

The King of *Spain* will ſay, as the King of *England* does, That he will do nothing on account of the Intimation of a hoſtile Power, who threatens an Union of Councils, and gives to underſtand a future War; for the Catholick King approves of and eſteems, in other Monarchs, thoſe Sentiments of Honour he feels himſelf; and if he had thought that the Delivery of the Memorial had been conſtrued as an Intimation, and a Threat, he would never have conſented to it. Why has not *England* made the Trial of concluding her Peace with *France* without the Guaranty or Intervention of *Spain*, and adjuſt her Differences with *Spain* without the Knowledge of *France*? and ſhe would have experienced, that their Union was not an Obſtruction, but only tended and tends to live in Tranquility, and ſhake off all Danger with regard to its Permanency. With reſpect to what concerns *Spain*, it is now repeated, as it has been ſo many Times before, That as the King of *Great Britain*, notwithſtanding the Delivery of the ſaid Memorial, was inclined to ſatisfy the Catholick King, and was ready to terminate, in a friendly Manner, whatever might occaſion a Coolneſs between the

Two Kingdoms; his Catholick Majeſty eſteems and correſponds moſt aſſuredly with ſuch good Purpoſes. The Difficulty conſiſts in the Terms. Three Articles of Grievances were ſtated, in the Memorial, by the Court of *Madrid* againſt that of *London*; which has been anſwered, but not with more Compliance than any of the former Offices, full of Conviction, from the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador in *England*, have been anſwered.

With regard to the Claim of the Injuries againſt the Neutrality in this War, which is one, and about which there is no material Stumbling-block; after other Things, it is ſaid, That *England* can never look upon the Miniſters of the moſt Chriſtian King as a Tribunal to which it will conſent to carry an Appeal; and it cannot be imagined to what Purpoſe. Who ever thought of ſuch an Irregularity? Concerning the Liberty of the *Biſcayners* and *Guipuſcoans* to fiſh for Bacallao, an abſolute Negative is given to that Right, though it is ſo well proved: And with reſpect to evacuating the Eſtabliſhments, it is only offered upon Terms inadmiſſible with the Catholick King's Decorum, That before doing it, he ſhould aſſure to the *Engliſh* the Logwood. Hard Proceeding certainly, for one to confeſs, that he is gone into the Houſe of another to take away his Jewels; and to ſay, "I will go out again, but firſt you ſhall engage to give "me what I went to take." And ſtill harder, when ſet in Oppoſition with the Bacallao; for the *Spaniards* want that for their Food, as the *Engliſh* want the Logwood for their Fabricks: Yet the *Engliſh* would by Force take away the Logwood, and hinder by Force the *Spaniards* from taking away the Bacallao. One would think that the *Engliſh* themſelves ought with Reluctance to produce ſuch a Pretenſion.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to Mr. Secretary* Pitt, *dated* Segovia, Sept. 14, 1761. *Received* Oct. 5.

SIR,

GEneral *Wall* has acquainted me that M. *Manſo*, Governor at *Sanroque*, had, in conſequence of the Orders tranſmitted to him, been at *Tariffa*, where (after examining into the Conduct of the Inhabitants at that Place, and reproving thoſe who connived at the Proceedings which occaſioned ſuch repeated Complaints from me, concerning the illegal Protection granted to the *French* Row Boats under the Cannon of that Port) he had taken ſuch Meaſures, as would put an effectual Stop to any farther Remonſtrances on that Subject.

The *Spaniſh* Miniſter likewiſe informed me of his having heard, that ſeveral additional Works were going forward in order to ſtrengthen the Fortifications at *Gibraltar*; which he ſaid would naturally confirm the Report, too univerſally ſpread, of an approaching Rupture between our Courts. His Excellency asked me, Whether *Great Britain* could ſeriouſly entertain any Apprehenſions of ſuch an Event? and, without giving me Time to anſwer, added, that the Catholick King

King had at no Time been more intent on cultivating a good Correſpondence with His Majeſty, than at preſent.

After ſo explicit a Declaration of the Sentiments of *Spain* on this very material Point, I thought it incumbent upon me to remove, as far as it lay in my Power, all the Jealouſies and Suſpicions which I found had ariſen from any Workmen being employed at *Gibraltar*. I therefore aſſured M. *Wall* of my having no kind of Reaſon to imagine any Orders had been iſſued from *England*, to increaſe the Works of that Fortreſs; for I had conſtantly been told that Place was impregnable by Land, of courſe Money would not be ſquandered away there unneceſſarily; yet, as ſome of the ancient Forts might want repairing, and as each new Governor would naturally exhibit his Attention and Diligence in the Care of ſo important a Truſt, General *Parſlow* might probably be employing ſome Hands for that Purpoſe, which was a ſufficient Ground for the Intelligence his Excellency had received, as all Reports from diſtant Provinces were very much magnified before they reached the Capital.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to Mr. Secretary* Pitt, *dated* Segovia, Sept. 21, 1761. *Received* Oct. 16.

SIR,

A Meſſenger arrived at St. *Ildephonſo* laſt Week, with the News of the ſafe Arrival of the Flota in the Bay of *Cadiz*, but the Particulars of the Cargo on Board are not yet exactly known.

I have been aſſured that this Court is diſappointed, ſince there is little above 330,000 *l.* brought from *America* upon the Catholick King's Account; which Sum, conſidering it is the Produce of the Royal Revenue for Two Years, in the *Weſt Indies*, is not conſiderable, and ſhews the great Miſmanagement that reigns amongſt the Aſſeſſors and Collectors in thoſe Parts. The Viceroys and Governors endeavour to diſculpate themſelves, by ſending heavy Complaints againſt their inferior Officers; and theſe retort the Accuſations, by alledging, that thoſe who are ſet over them to prevent all illegal Practices, are the firſt and principal People who defraud the King of *Spain* of his Due, by encouraging the contraband Trade upon the Coaſts, and conniving at the Introduction of all Kind of Goods, for which they, the Chiefs, receive large Preſents; by theſe Means the Markets and Fairs are glutted with every Kind of Commodity from *Europe* when the Flota arrives from *Old Spain*; ſo that, from the Magazines being then full, no Vent can be found for the new Merchandize but upon very diſadvantageous Terms, which the Factors are compelled to ſubmit to, rather

than to return hither with the ſame Goods they carried out. As his Catholick Majeſty ſeems to have the Proſperity of his extenſive Dominions ſo much at Heart, and is conſcious how highly requiſite it is, for the Welfare of his Subjects in the different Parts of the World, to put his Affairs upon an entire new Regulation; his Miniſters do not fail ſuggeſting often to him, the Impracticability of ſetting about to alter the old defective Syſtem of Government that has ſo long prevailed, if the Court of *Madrid* ſhould embroil itſelf in the preſent Troubles of *Europe*, by taking a Part in the War againſt *Great Britain*.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to Mr. Secretary* Pitt, *dated* Segovia, Sept. 28, 1761. *Received* Oct. 20.

SIR,

DON *Jayme Maſones*, late Ambaſſador from this Court to that of *Verſailles*, having obtained Leave to reſign his Employment of Director General of the Artillery, has been appointed by the Catholick King One of the Counſellors of State.

M. *Wall* has acquainted me, that, by the freſheſt Intelligence he has been able to procure from *America*, he has been told, the *Engliſh* Settlers upon the Logwood Coaſt had chiefly been fortifying themſelves at *Rio Tinto*, where they had caſt up conſiderable Intrenchments, and had placed ſeveral Pieces of Cannon upon the Ramparts. His Excellency added, as that Eſtabliſhment, together with thoſe near the River *Wallis* and the *Laguna Azul*, were indiſputably of a very recent Date, he did not conceive what Difficulty *Great Britain* could alledge for avoiding to evacuate ſuch avowed Uſurpations, if the Court of *London* was really ſincere in the Profeſſions which had been ſo repeatedly made to *Spain*, of its Intention to cauſe all Settlements, contrary to the territorial Juriſdiction of his Catholick Majeſty, to be abandoned. General *Wall* has earneſtly deſired my giving the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances at Home, that, if Orders were ſent for recalling thoſe *Britiſh* Subjects, who are now at *Rio Tinto*, and directing them to withdraw their Cannon from that Place, the King of *Spain* promiſed, in the ampleſt Manner, that no kind of Diſturbance ſhould be given to any of the Logwood Cutters in whatſoever Parts they were, either on the Coaſts of *Campeachy* or of *Honduras*; but that they ſhould be permitted to carry on their Trade unmoleſted, until an Agreement could be made, and a Convention ſettled, between their *Britannick* and Catholick Majeſties, for the final Adjuſtment of this long depending Buſineſs, to the mutual Satisfaction of our

Two Sovereigns. General *Wall* has ever acted in too ingenuous a Manner, for me to ſuſpect the leaſt Duplicity in his Conduct; and the preſſing Inſtances he made me, on this Occaſion, to endeavour to repreſent the Equity as well as the Expediency of ſuch Orders being tranſmitted with regard to *Rio Tinto*, leave me no Room to doubt, that this Court only wiſhes for ſuch a Step, either to treat upon that apparent Equality of its Differences with *England*, or to put a Stop to the repeated Intimations conveyed from *Verſailles*. That it would be unbecoming the Dignity of the King of *Spain* to enter into any Negotiation with another Power, who avowedly withheld from his Catholick Majeſty ſeveral illegal Settlements in his Territories; although the *French* Miniſters, in order to render an Accommodation between *England* and *Spain* utterly impracticable, recommend to this Court the Neceſſity of inſiſting, that every *Engliſhman* whatever ſhould withdraw from each Part of the Logwood Coaſts, before any Overtures are made for the Regulation of our Commerce with *Spain*; yet M. *Wall* ſaid, that the Catholick King could not give a ſtronger Proof of his Deſire ſincerely to put an End to our Diſputes, by ſome amicable Regulation, than exacting only the Relinquiſhing that Eſtabliſhment on *Rio Tinto*, which, while it ſilenced the Clamours of our Enemies, would alſo facilitate this Court's coming to a ſpeedy Adjuſtment with *England*; for all that was requeſted from us was, to make known to the World our own good Faith, at the ſame Time that it would ſerve as a Salvo to the *Spaniards Pundonor* for entering into a Negotiation, after having ſo often inſiſted on the Evacuation of the Catholick King's Dominions in the *Weſt Indies*.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to Mr. Secretary* Pitt, *dated* Segovia, October 5, 1761. *Received* October *the 27th.*

SIR,

I Received, by the laſt Poſt, the Honour of your Diſpatch of the 11th paſt, acquainting me, that His Majeſty's Marriage with the Princeſs *Charlotte* of *Mecklenbourg Strelitz*, was happily celebrated the 8th of laſt Month; on which joyful Event I offer you my ſincere Congratulations, as I can judge of the great Satisfaction all the King's faithful Subjects muſt feel, by what I now experience within myſelf.

As you tranſmitted to me the King's Letters of Notification, on this Occaſion, to his Catholick Majeſty, and to the Queen Dowager of *Spain*, I went Yeſterday to St. *Ildephonſo*, and preſented His Majeſty's Letter, in the accuſtomed Manner, to the Catholick King; who enjoined me very particularly, to aſſure His

Majeſty of the ſincere Share he ſhould ever take in all Events that contributed to the King's Happineſs. To-morrow I intend returning to the Palace, in order to deliver to the Queen Dowager the Letter addreſſed to her Majeſty, as I have already acquainted the Camarera Mayor with my having been honoured with the King's Commands for that Purpoſe. M. *Wall* has informed me, that the Hopes of Peace now ſeem more remote than ever, as M. *Stanley* and M. *Buſſy* were ſhortly to return to their reſpective Courts. His Excellency expreſſed a thorough Concern at the breaking off theſe Conferences; and ſaid, it was the Opinion in *Spain*, the *French* Miniſters had gone as great Lengths in Conceſſions as could be expected, conſidering the Engagements of *France* with her Allies. That if *Great Britain* was ſo laudably ſtrenuous for the Support of the King of *Pruſſia*, it was equally reaſonable to imagine, the Court of *France* would never conſent to deſert the Empreſs Queen; and the being allowed only to ſuccour her Imperial Majeſty with 24,000 Men, while *England* reſerved to itſelf the Power of aſſiſting his *Pruſſian* Majeſty efficaciouſly, was almoſt equivalent to abandoning the Houſe of *Auſtria*.

I am, *&c.* BRISTOL.

Copy of a moſt ſecret Letter from the Earl of Egremont, *to the Earl of* Briſtol, *dated* October 28, 1761.

My LORD,

IN opening my Correſpondence with your Excellency, it gives me great Pleaſure to be able to inform you, that your Letter of the Fourteenth paſt, wherein you mention, "That M. *Wall* has acquainted you that the Catholick "King had, at no Time, been more Intent on cultivating a good Correſpon- "dence with His Majeſty, than at preſent", having been laid before the King, His Majeſty received, with particular Satisfaction, ſuch an authentick Declaration of the good Intentions of his Catholick Majeſty; and the King highly approves of the Aſſurances your Excellency gave, in return, to the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, with regard to additional Works at *Gibraltar*: And it is with great Pleaſure I can aſſure your Excellency, that having made proper Enquiry into that Matter, I find no Orders whatſoever have been iſſued with regard to thoſe Fortifications; and therefore nothing can have been done there, but the uſual and neceſſary Repairs.

I am alſo to inform your Excellency, that the Confirmation of the ſame good Diſpoſitions in the Court of *Spain*, manifeſted by M. *Wall*'s expreſſing (as reported in your Diſpatch of the 28th paſt) their Readineſs to come to a ſpeedy Adjuſtment with *England*, upon our evacuating the moſt recent Settlements on the Coaſt of *Honduras*, only to ſerve as a *Salvo* to the *Spa-*

niards Pundonor, was conſidered, by His Majeſty, as a happy Preſage of a ſpeedy and amicable Concluſion of all Diſputes ſubſiſting between the Two Crowns.

It is judged highly expedient for the King's Service, that the Court of *Spain* ſhould, in the preſent Moment, be apprized of the Sentiments of that of *Great Britain*. I am therefore to acquaint your Excellency, that His Majeſty continues to have nothing more at Heart, than to cultivate the moſt cordial Friendſhip with his Catholick Majeſty; truſting, however, to find this Diſpoſition reciprocal on the Part of *Spain*. Nothing being more evident, than the mutual Advantage which muſt ariſe to both Courts from a State of Union and Amity; and perhaps Experience has ſhewn, that when, in Contradiction to the obvious Principles of our common Intereſts, that Harmony has been unhappily interrupted, *Spain* has always been the greateſt Sufferer.

Theſe being the King's Sentiments, His Majeſty cannot imagine that the Court of *Spain* ſhould think it unreaſonable, to deſire a Communication of the Treaty acknowledged to have been lately concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Verſailles*, or of ſuch Articles thereof as can, by particular and explicit Engagements, immediately relate to the Intereſts of *Great Britain*, or, in a more general and diſtant View of Affairs, be any ways conſtrued to affect the ſame in the preſent Conjuncture, before He enters into farther Negotiation on the Points depending between the Two Crowns; which the King conceives may be ſoon amicably accommodated, if his Catholick Majeſty means to bring the ſame Facility on his Part, as His Majeſty is determined to ſhew on His, towards the ſpeedy Adjuſtment of that, which ſeems now to remain the Principal, if not only Matter in Diſpute: For tho' the King, from His Confidence in the repeated Aſſurances of Friendſhip from his Catholick Majeſty, is unwilling to ſuppoſe that a Treaty, concluded by him, can contain any Thing to the Prejudice of *Great Britain*; yet as the Court of *France* has affected to give out that *Spain* was on the Point of entering into the War; which Language has been induſtriouſly propagated, and generally with Succeſs, in moſt Courts of *Europe*; His Majeſty therefore thinks, that the Honour of His Crown, and the Intereſts of His People, equally call for an Explanation with regard to this already too much credited Report, before He can, conſiſtent with His own Dignity, proceed in any Negotiation with *Spain*: Nor can any fair or candid Diſcuſſion of the Rights or Differences of the Two Courts take Place upon a juſt and equitable Footing, ſhould *Spain*, while ſhe is fully informed of the Extent of all His Majeſty's Alliances and Connections, maintain a ſuſpicious and unfriendly Reſerve, with regard to a Treaty recently concluded between her and His Majeſty's declared and inveterate Enemy; by whom it is openly and induſtriouſly aſſerted, throughout *Europe*, that the Purport thereof is hoſtile to *Great Britain*.

I am

I am here to inform your Excellency, that, in my firſt Conference with the Count *de Fuentes*, I explained this Matter fully, but his Excellency avoided entering into it, and ſeemed to wiſh that it might be paſſed through another Channel; diſclaiming, however, in the ſtrongeſt Manner, any unfriendly Intentions of his Court. It is therefore the King's Pleaſure, that your Excellency ſhould uſe the moſt preſſing Inſtances to M. *Wall*, to obtain ſuch Communication as is above mentioned; and it is hoped, that you will eaſily convince a Miniſter ſo thoroughly acquainted with the Nature and Conſtitution of this Country, of the Importance of this Teſt of Friendſhip, to the Support of that deſirable Harmony between the Two Courts; and how much a Refuſal to give due Satisfaction on this Head, would impede and obſtruct His Majeſty's beſt Intentions towards that valuable Object. It is needleſs to recommend to your Excellency, to urge this Matter in the moſt polite and friendly Terms; gently inſinuating the above Arguments, to ſhew, that His Majeſty ought to be ſatisfied as to this Matter, before he proceeds to other Points: But on the other Hand, your Excellency will give the *Spaniſh* Miniſter the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances, that, this Obſtacle once removed, His Majeſty is moſt ſincerely and cordially diſpoſed to enter into an amicable Diſcuſſion of other Matters in Diſpute; little doubting, but that a confirmed reciprocal Confidence would naturally point out Expedients to ſave the Honour of both Kings, adjuſt Things to mutual Satisfaction, and eſtabliſh a Harmony, as permanent as advantageous to both Courts. Nor can I more explicitly enforce the King's real Sentiments on this Head, than by referring your Excellency to your own Diſpatches, wherein you have repeatedly made the moſt conciliating Overtures, particularly in that of the 31ſt of *Auguſt* laſt, which I cannot more properly expreſs, than in your your Excellency's own Words, as follows, "Concerning the Diſputes about "the Coaſt of *Honduras*, I could add nothing to the repeated Declarations "I had made in the King's Name, of the Satisfaction with which His Majeſty "would receive any juſt Overture from *Spain* (upon Condition that *France* "was not to be the Channel of that Conveyance) for terminating amicably, "and to mutual Satisfaction, every reaſonable Complaint on this Matter, by "propoſing ſome equitable Regulation for ſecuring to us the long-enjoyed "Privilege of cutting Logwood (an Indulgence confirmed by Treaty, and "of courſe authorized in the moſt ſacred Manner) nor could I give ſtronger "Aſſurances than the paſt, of His Majeſty's ſteady Purpoſe to cauſe all "Eſtabliſhments on the Logwood Coaſts, contrary to the Territorial Juriſ-"diction of *Spain*, to be removed;" and ſhould your Excellency ſee the proper Moment for renewing Declarations of the ſame Sort, I am to aſſure your Excellency of His Majeſty's Approbation therein.

In order to prevent any perverſe Impreſſions, which Mr. *Pitt*'s retiring from publick Buſineſs, at this Juncture, might Occaſion, it is proper that I ſhould aſſure your Excellency, that the Meaſures of Government will ſuffer no Relaxation on that Account; on the contrary, I may venture to promiſe, that the Idea ſuggeſted

geſted by ſome malevolent Perſons at Home, and perhaps induſtriouſly propagated Abroad, of the whole Spirit of the War ſubſiding with him, inſtead of diſcouraging, will only tend to animate the preſent Miniſtry to a more vigorous Exertion of their Powers, to avoid every poſſible Imputation of Indeciſion or Indolence, which ignorant Prejudice might ſuggeſt: And the Example of the Spirit of the late Meaſures, will be a Spur to His Majeſty's Servants to perſevere, and to ſtretch every Nerve of this Country, towards forcing the Enemy to come into a ſafe, honourable, and, above all, a laſting Peace. I further have the Pleaſure to inform your Excellency, that the moſt perfect Harmony, mutual Confidence and Unanimity, now reign in His Majeſty's Councils; with a thorough Determination to puſh the War with ſuch Vigour, as will, it is hoped, under the Hand of Providence, procure ſtill farther Succeſſes to the juſt Cauſe for which this Country drew the Sword. The King at the ſame Time continues to be diſpoſed, with equal Moderation, to put an End to the dreadful Calamities of War, the Moment the Enemy will liſten to ſuch Terms of Peace as ſhall be conſiſtent with His Majeſty's Honour, in ſome Degree adequate to the Succeſſes of His Arms, and calculated, by promiſing Permanency, to preſerve Mankind from the various Diſtreſſes and Miſeries, which have been ſo fatally experienced during the Courſe of this cruel and bloody War.

I am, &c.

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont *to the Earl of* Briſtol, *dated* Oct. 28, 1761. *Secret and Confidential.*

My LORD,

I AM to acquaint your Excellency, that His Majeſty does not think proper to confine you, as to the Mode of opening yourſelf to M. *Wall*, on the important Subject of this Diſpatch; or to preſcribe whether you are to communicate the Subſtance of it verbally, or to truſt the Whole, or any Part thereof, out of your Hands: Your Excellency's Experience of that Miniſter will, no doubt, ſuggeſt to you the Degree of Compliment and Confidence which is moſt likely to ſucceed, and which is, for that Reaſon, entirely left to your Diſcretion.

I am further to inform your Excellency, for your private Direction, That, in caſe you ſhould find inſuperable Objections to ſuch a Communication as is expected in my moſt ſecret Letter of this Date, and that, in lieu thereof, it ſhould be propoſed to give His Majeſty ſolemn Aſſurances of the Innocence of the Treaty in queſtion with reſpect to the King's Intereſts; in ſuch Caſe, your Excellency is not totally to reject the Alternative, but to take it

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ad referendum to be tranſmitted to your Court: Provided always, That the ſaid Aſſurances be given upon his Catholick Majeſty's Royal Word, ſignified in Writing, either by the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State to your Excellency, or by the Conde *de Fuentes* to the King's Secretary of State here, and not otherwiſe.

I am, *&c.* EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont *to the Earl of* Briſtol, *dated* October 28, 1761. *Separate and ſecret.*

My LORD,

I Reſerve for this ſeparate and ſecret Letter the King's Commands, that your Excellency ſhould pay the moſt particular Attention to what is paſſing, at this critical Conjuncture, at the Court where you reſide; it being highly important to His Majeſty's Service, that you ſhould not only uſe your utmoſt Endeavours to penetrate, as far as you can, into his Catholick Majeſty's real Views, as well as into the prevailing Temper and Sentiments of his principal Miniſters, but that you ſhould obſerve, with a watchful Eye, every new Order or Regulation relative to their Sea and Land Forces, or to their Credit and Finances, as far as the ſame ſhall appear to your Excellency to indicate the leaſt Diſpoſition in the Court of *Spain* to depart, in any Shape, from their Neutrality, either by openly or ſecretly aſſiſting His Majeſty's Enemies.

The King's thorough Reliance on your experienced Zeal for His Service, makes it unneceſſary to recommend Vigilance on this Occaſion. I am therefore only to add, that your Excellency, in the diligent Proſecution of this Object, will moſt cautiouſly avoid the leaſt Mark of offenſive Diffidence, which might, in any Degree, tend to interrupt thoſe friendly Diſpoſitions, which His Majeſty ſincerely wiſhes to cultivate and improve.

I am, &c. EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to Mr. Secretary* Pitt, *dated* Eſcurial October 12, 1761. *Received* November *the 8th.*

SIR,

I Delivered the King's Letter, notifying His Majeſty's Marriage, to the Queen Mother at St. *Ildephonſo*; who deſired me not to fail acquainting the King, how much her Majeſty intereſted herſelf in every Event, where the King's Happineſs was concerned.

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The Court left *Old Caſtille* on the 7th Inſtant, and arrived the ſame Day here.

General *Parſlow* having ſent me an Anſwer to a Letter I wrote to him, enquiring whether there were any Grounds for thoſe Reports M. *Wall* had mentioned to me, concerning ſome additional Works carrying on at *Gibraltar*, and having acquainted me with what was going forward, which conſiſted only in ſome neceſſary Repairs and Conveniencies for the Garriſon, I read the whole Letter to General *Wall*; deſiring him to acquaint his Catholick Majeſty with that very authentic Contradiction of what had been maliciouſly conveyed to this Court: Aſſuring his Excellency at the ſame Time, that *Spain* need have no Suſpicion of *England*'s not truſting to the repeated Declarations, he (M. *Wall*) had made to me, of the pacific Diſpoſition of the King his Maſter; for I had conſtantly and explicitly given an Account of thoſe Profeſſions in my Diſpatches, which correſponded with the Sentiments and Inclinations of *Great Britain*, to maintain a perfect Harmony and thorough Union between the Two Kingdoms, in *Europe* as well as in *America*.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Eſcurial, Nov. 2, 1761. *Received* Nov. 14.

My LORD,

THE ſurprizing Change I have of late perceived in General *Wall*'s Diſcourſe, and the unlooked for Alteration of that Miniſter's Sentiments, with regard to the preſent Situation of this Country, has determined me to diſpatch the Meſſenger *Potter* to *England*, that your Lordſhip may be thoroughly informed of the haughty Language now held by this Court; ſo different from all the former Profeſſions made to me by the Catholick King's Commands, and ſo diametrically oppoſite to the moſt ſolemn and repeated Declarations I had received from the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State, of a thorough Reſolution to maintain a perfect Harmony and good Correſpondence between the Two Kingdoms, ſo requiſite for their mutual Intereſt and reciprocal Felicity.

Such ſtrong Reports of an approaching Rupture between *Great Britain* and *Spain*, grounded upon ſeveral authentick Aſſurances I had received, that ſome Agreement had been ſettled and ſigned between their Catholick and moſt Chriſtian Majeſties, determined me to enquire minutely into this Affair; and therefore, I took an Opportunity of mentioning to M. *Wall*, that notwithſtanding the frequent, and even late Declarations he had made to me, concerning the pacifick Inclinations of *Spain*, yet I could not conceal the Uneaſineſs it gave me, to hear from all Parts, both within theſe Kingdoms, and from other

Countries, that a Treaty had not long ſince been concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Verſailles*, and therefore I deſired his Excellency would ſatisfy my Doubts, by informing me, whether there was any Ground for theſe Rumours; and, in caſe it were poſſible, after all that had paſſed between us, for ſuch a Convention as was hinted at, to have been concluded; then I hoped to be told of what Nature this Treaty was, whether Offenſive or ſingly Defenſive, what were the principal Conditions contained in it, and with what Views this ſudden and cloſe Union between *Spain* and *France* had been calculated: For I could neither hear ſuch Reports with Indifference, nor give Credit to the Truth of them, without an explicit Avowal thereof from his Excellency's Mouth.

Inſtead of anſwering me directly, General *Wall* began, by ſaying, that the King his Maſter had Reaſon to think the Conduct of *England* unwarrantable; for his Catholick Majeſty never could obtain an Anſwer from the *Britiſh* Miniſtry, to any Memorial or Paper that was ſent from hence, either by the Channel of the Count of *Fuentes*, or through my Hands: He told me, we were intoxicated with all our Succeſſes, and a continued Series of Victories had elated us ſo far, as to induce us to contemn the reaſonable Conceſſions *France* had conſented to make to us for a Peace; but that it was evident, by our Refuſal of the Duc *de Choiſeul*'s Propoſals, all we aimed at was, firſt, to ruin the *French* Power, in order more eaſily to cruſh *Spain*, to drive all the Subjects of the Chriſtian King, not only from their Iſland Colonies in the new World, but alſo to deſtroy their ſeveral Forts and Settlements upon the Continent of *North America*, to have an eaſier Task in ſeizing on all the *Spaniſh* Dominions in thoſe Parts, thereby to ſatisfy the utmoſt of our Ambition, and to gratify our unbounded Thirſt of Conqueſt.

After M. *Wall* had worked up his Anger to a Height I had never before ſeen, he then ſaid, with uncommon Warmth, That he would himſelf be the Man to adviſe the King of *Spain*, ſince his Dominions were to be overwhelmed, at leaſt to have them ſeized with Arms in his Subjects Hands, and not to continue the paſſive Victim he had hitherto appeared to be in the Eyes of the World. I attended to this Diſcourſe, without interrupting the Thread of it; and, at the Concluſion of it, I deſired, with the utmoſt Serenity, of General *Wall*, to give me an Anſwer to the Queſtions I had firſt ſtarted, and we would afterwards proceed to diſcuſs what his Excellency had been expatiating upon. But the *Spaniſh* Miniſter only renewed ſome of his former Exclamations, by inſiſting, that we had ſet the *Spaniſh* Power at Defiance during this War; that we had attacked and plundered their Veſſels, inſulted their Coaſts, violated the Neutrality of theſe Kingdoms, encroached upon the Territorial Juriſdiction of his Catholick Majeſty's Dominions in *America*, by fortifying ourſelves in an illegal Manner in the Bay of *Campeachy* and the Gulf of *Honduras*, erecting freſh Settlements, and ſeizing on Logwood in a moſt arbitrary Manner, beſides denying the *Spaniards* a Right, they had ſo long claimed, to fiſh upon the Banks of *Newfoundland*; nay, even wanting to put the *Biſcayners* and *Guipuſcoans* on

a worſe

a worſe Footing at preſent, with regard to their Pretenſions to the *Batallas* Trade, than they had been by the Treaties of *Utrecht* and that of 1721, where the Article in relation to them was, That thoſe *Spaniards* ſhould enjoy *quæ ſure ſibi vindicare poterunt*: Whereas all my Inſtructions had run to declare their Claim to be ſtale and inadmiſſible, and finally, to aſſert that *England* hoped the Catholick King would never expect this Sacrifice as the Price of a Union, which could never be conſented to on thoſe Terms.

General *Wall* went on, by ſaying, He perceived he had in vain given Hopes to his Royal Maſter, that a proper Attention would be paid to the *Spaniſh* Demands, and Juſtice be granted to atone for the repeated Grievances of his Catholick Majeſty's Subjects; yet he wanted to know where, when, and how, it was to be expected, ſince we ſhewed no Regard to this Country, which had hitherto withſtood all the advantageous Offers made by *France* to enter into the preſent War.

Notwithſtanding this Second Digreſſion of his Excellency's, I did not deſiſt from my Point, but renewed my former Queſtions, by alledging, that the Buſineſs I came about, was to receive ſome explicit Anſwer to what I had before enquired after. At laſt, General *Wall* replied, he had no Orders to acquaint me with any Meaſures but what he had formerly communicated to me, and ſignified his not being at Liberty to ſay any more; but ſaid, M. *de Fuentes* had wrote Word, in his Letter of the 2d paſt, that a Courier was to be ſent to me, and whenever the Contents of thoſe Diſpatches were communicated to him (M. *Wall*) then I ſhould be acquainted with the Reſolutions of *Spain*; for his Catholick Majeſty did not doubt of my receiving Inſtructions relative to the *Spaniſh* Paper I had tranſmitted in my Letter of the 31ſt of *Auguſt*.

It was evident, by the Diſpoſition the Secretary of State was in during this whole Conference, that I ſhould at that Time gain no Ground by any farther Enquiries into what I wanted to be inſtructed in. I therefore broke off here; and after having paid my Court, as uſual, with the reſt of the Ambaſſadors, to his Catholick Majeſty, I returned in about an Hour to the Office, under Pretence of ſhewing an Attention I always pay to General *Wall*, when I intend ſending off a Meſſenger, which was, to deſire his Excellency would honour me with any Commands he might have for *England*, either of a publick or a private Nature. As our Converſation in general had been too intereſting (whilſt a Part of it was ſo myſterious) for me not to ſend Home an exact Account of all that had paſſed, by a ſafe Conveyance; I let this drop, in order to renew the former Topick, and, by ſo doing, endeavour to procure a little more Inſight into this obſcure Buſineſs.

The *Spaniſh* Miniſter began in his former Strain, but multiplied the Appearance of this Country's Grievances; talked of its being Time to open their Eyes, and not to ſuffer a Neighbhour, an Ally, a Parent, and a Friend, any longer to run the Riſque of receiving ſuch rigid Laws, as were preſcribed by an inſulting Victor: His Excellency told me, the Court of *Verſailles*, after having communicated to the Catholick King, every the moſt minute Step taken,

during Mr. *Stanley*'s Negotiations at *Paris*, and M. *de Buſſy*'s Conferences at *London*, had determined to publiſh to the whole World, the mortifying Terms *France* had brought itſelf to ſubmit to for the ſake of Peace; and to make known the arbitrary unreaſonable Demands of *England*, which fruſtrated the good Intentions of the moſt Chriſtian King, whoſe Humanity had made him conſent to put an End to the War, even at the dear Price of yielding ſo much as he had brought himſelf to agree to, in order, if poſſible, to ſatisfy the Ambition of *Great Britain*.

I thought I had ſufficiently liſtened to all theſe Accuſations, and that a longer Silence would be reproachful. I muſt confeſs, the Allegations mentioned by M. *Wall* in the firſt Conference, were ſo unexpected to me, on account of their differing ſo widely from all prior Converſations on thoſe Subjects, that I thought it more prudent then, only to attend to what his Excellency aſſerted, and afterwards, by a ſhort Abſence from his Cloſet, endeavour to recollect the Subſtance of what had been advanced, that I might be the better enabled to anſwer, tho', I feared, not to convince, the *Spaniſh* Miniſter.

I began, by expreſſing my Surprize, that, when I came to be informed of a Step ſo publickly diſcourſed of in the World, I could not obtain the Satisfaction I ſolicited from one, who alone could clear my Doubts, and ſolve my Queſtions: That all I had been able to find out was, that it ſeemed determined to keep me in the Dark; and, in order to divert my Attention from the ſingle Point I wanted to be inſtructed in, I had only heard a complicated Heap of Grievances, flung out with a View to deter me from perſevering in the Purſuit of getting my Curioſity ſatisfied. Upon that I went methodically through the various Subjects that had been ſtarted by the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State, inſiſting on the firſt Diſcovery, and a continued Poſſeſſion of the *Newfoundland* Fiſhery, by the King's Subjects; whereas the *Spaniards* had never brought any Proofs to back their own Aſſertions to a Claim to that Fiſhery, whilſt we had clearly deduced our Right from the Time of *Henry* VII.

With regard to the Logwood Trade; a conſtant Enjoyment of it for about a Century, confirmed to us by Treaties, under the Denominations of an Indulgence or Sufferance, made it a legal Commodity: But as to all uſurped Settlements, I had often been ordered to declare the King's Readineſs to have them evacuated, when an equitable Regulation was ſettled, between the Two Courts, for our quiet Poſſeſſion of that valuable Branch of Commerce.

Then, as to the ſeveral Complaints of Breaches of Neutrality, pretended Confiſcations of Goods, unlawful Seizures of *Spaniſh* Veſſels, and all the various blended Grievances I had heard of; I could only anſwer, in general, that our Courts of Law were open to all Complainants, and tho' Parties might go from thence diſſatisfied, yet the Juſtice of thoſe Courts of Judicature had never been impeached.

In relation to *England*'s Views, of forcing our Enemies to agree to ſuch Terms, as we thought might inſure our Nation from the Apprehenſions of a future War; I deſired to know, what Inſtance there was of any Country's not

endeavouring to obtain the moſt advantageous Conditions for itſelf at a Peace, eſpecially when Providence had vouchſafed to bleſs a righteous Cauſe with Succeſs: This was the Caſe of *Great Britain*; we were bound by ſtrong Engagements to ſupport our Allies, and inſiſted on being at Liberty to fulfil thoſe Engagements according to the Extent of them; whilſt we determined to ſettle our Empire in *America* upon ſuch a Footing, as ſhould free our Colonies there from Encroachments, and not leave them to be liable to a Repetition of ſuch Chicanes from the *French*, as had cauſed the Beginning of thoſe Diſturbances, which had afterwards extended themſelves into *Europe*.

This was the Sum of my Diſcourſe; and when I recurred to my repeated Inſtances for Information concerning the Treaty, all that I could, with Difficulty, extort from General *Wall*, was, that his Catholick Majeſty had judged it expedient to renew his Family Compacts (thoſe were the expreſs Words) with the moſt Chriſtian King. I begged to know when thoſe Compacts had firſt been agreed upon; and at what Time, whether very lately, or ſome Months ago, they had received a freſh Sanction. Here the *Spaniſh* Miniſter ſtopt ſhort, and, as if he had gone beyond what he intended, he ſaid, that the Count *de Fuentes* and M. *Buſſy* had declared to His Majeſty's Miniſters all that was meant to be communicated to them; and altho' I continued in the Cloſet ſome ſhort Time after that Declaration, as I found I was to expect nothing but a Repetition of the ſame Anſwer to every Queſtion I put, I determined to retire.

This, my Lord, is the Reſult of my Enquiries, and here the Buſineſs reſts at preſent.

Two Ships have lately arrived at *Cadiz*, with very extraordinary rich Cargoes, from the *Weſt Indies*; ſo that all the Wealth that was expected from *Spaniſh America*, is now ſafe in *Old Spain*: Perhaps this Circumſtance has raiſed the Language of the Catholick King's Miniſters, added to the Progreſs which, we hear, the *French* Army is making in the King's Electoral Dominions, and the Succeſs that has attended the *Auſtrian* Operations in *Sileſia*. I have long obſerved the Jealouſy of *Spain* at the *Britiſh* Conqueſts; and am now convinced, that the Conſciouſneſs of this Country's Naval Inferiority, has occaſioned the ſoothing Declarations, ſo repeatedly made, of a Deſire to maintain Harmony and Friendſhip with *England*: But the *French* have never diſcontinued their Flatteries, whilſt they ſolicited a Junction of Forces, aſſuring the *Spaniards*, that even the Signing of an Alliance between their Sovereigns, would intimidate our Court, not only upon account of our being exhauſted by the preſent long and expenſive War, but by our having felt the fatal Conſequences of an Interruption of our *Spaniſh* Trade, during the laſt War.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont *to the Earl of Briſtol, dated* November 19th, 1761.

My LORD,

ON the 14th Inſtant, I received the Honour of your Excellency's moſt important and intereſting Diſpatch of the 2d, by *Potter*, and laid the ſame immediately before the King.

The Surpriſe which your Excellency expreſſes, at the unlooked for and ſudden Change of Sentiments and Diſcourſe of M. *Wall*, could not have exceeded His Majeſty's Aſtoniſhment at the Contraſt, as ſtriking as unaccountable, which your Excellency's Diſpatches of the 14th and 28th of *September*, compared with that of the 2d Inſtant, exhibit; and when His Majeſty obſerves the very different and contradictory Tenor of the abovementioned ſeveral Letters, the abrupt and unprovoked Tranſition in the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State, from the moſt cordial and conciliatory Tone of friendly Profeſſion and amicable Adjuſtment, to the moſt peremptory and haughty Stile of Menace and Hoſtility, cannot but put His Majeſty's Moderation to the ſevereſt Trial. It muſt alſo add to your Excellency's, as it has to my, Animadverſion, on the Incoherency of this Behaviour, when I inform you, that the ſeveral Converſations I have had with the Count *de Fuentes*, have been all of the moſt amicable Kind; and the very Day before your Excellency's Meſſenger arrived, the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador, coming out of His Majeſty's Cloſet, from an Audience, to which he had been admitted to deliver a Letter from His Catholick Majeſty on occaſion of the King's Marriage, took me aſide, to repeat to me the ſtrong Aſſurances he had juſt had the Honour of giving His Majeſty, of the friendly Diſpoſition of the King his Maſter, and of his ſteady Purpoſe to maintain the ſtricteſt Amity with the Court of *Great Britain*.

The King, however, religiouſly true to His ſolemn and ſincere Declarations to his Catholick Majeſty, and, at the ſame Time, not leſs attentive to the Dignity of His Crown, and the real Intereſts of His People, is calmly and reſolutely determined punctually to diſcharge thoſe indiſpenſable Duties, with a Coolneſs, which no Provocation can diſturb, and a Firmneſs, which no Menace can intimidate.

In this fixed Diſpoſition of Mind, His Majeſty directs me to loſe no Time in re-diſpatching your Excellency's Meſſenger, with His Majeſty's Sentiments on a Point which ſo highly concerns the Honour and Intereſt of both Crowns.

Tho' my Diſpatch of the 28th paſt, will have already given your Excellency the Satisfaction of ſeeing, how intirely conſiſtent with His Majeſty's Ideas, the Steps you have taken have been; yet, I muſt, in Obedience to the King's Commands, aſſure you, that your Conduct on this Occaſion has met with His moſt Gracious Approbation.

It would be both tedious, and uſeleſs, to enter minutely into the Anſwers ſo obvious to be given to the offenſive Digreſſions, by which M. *Wall* determinately evaded giving any Satisfaction to your Excellency's moſt reaſonable Demand, with regard to the Treaty lately concluded with *France*. I ſhall therefore content myſelf with very few Obſervations in the Order of your Diſpatch.

As to the Aſſertion of that Miniſter, "That his Catholick Majeſty never "could obtain an Anſwer from the *Britiſh* Miniſtry, to any Memorial or "Paper that was ſent from *Spain*, either by the Channel of the Count *de Fuentes*, "or thro' your Hands;" it would be a uſeleſs Condeſcenſion to appeal ſo repeatedly to thoſe ample Materials in your Excellency's Poſſeſſion, for the Confutation of a Propoſition ſo notoriouſly groundleſs, that it ſcarce deſerves a ſerious Anſwer.

The Language M. *Wall* held, relative to the late Negotiation with *France*, as well as with regard to our Ambition and unbounded Thirſt of Conqueſt, as it conſiſts of meer abuſive Aſſertion, without the leaſt Shew of Argument, deſerves nothing but plain Contradiction.

His Majeſty read, with particular Concern, the intemperate and raſh Advice which that Miniſter talked of propoſing to the King his Maſter, grounded upon meer chimerical Suppoſitions of intended Hoſtilities againſt *Spain*, which do the higheſt Injuſtice to the Purity and Integrity of His Majeſty's Intentions: And M. *Wall* muſt himſelf know, that there has been a particular Delicacy obſerved, in concerting our Plans for Military Operations, to avoid carrying Hoſtilities towards Objects, which might give the leaſt Jealouſy or Umbrage to the Court of *Spain*; and therefore, His Majeſty can only conſider ſuch unjuſt Suggeſtions and groundleſs Suſpicions, as deſtitute of Probability, as of Proof, as a meer Pretext, in caſe, that, contrary to all good Faith, and the moſt ſolemn repeated Profeſſions of friendly Intentions, the Court of *Spain* ſhould have meditated or reſolved on Hoſtilities againſt *England*: Which as, on the one hand, His Majeſty will, with His uſual Moderation, endeavour to prevent, by all Means conſiſtent with His own Dignity, and that of the Nation; ſo, on the other, he will, with the utmoſt Firmneſs and Reſolution, ſtrenuouſly repel, with that Vigour which becomes a Monarch conſcious of being attacked without Cauſe or Provocation, and zealous at all Times to aſſert and vindicate the Honour of His Crown, and the Rights of His Subjects.

The Patience and Calmneſs with which your Excellency liſtened to what muſt have been ſo painful to hear, as the vague Declamation with which the *Spaniſh* Secretary eluded, for the ſecond Time, returning any Anſwer to the Queſtion you ſo properly perſevered in urging to him; and your having ſtill returned to the Charge, after an Interval of an Hour, without any Effect, except the dry unſatisfactory telling you, That the Count *de Fuentes* and M. *Buſſy* "had de-"clared to His Majeſty's Miniſters all that was meant to be communicated to-"them;" has ſo unpromiſing an Aſpect, as to give the King very little Reaſon to hope for good Effects from further Patience and Forbearance: And ſo unſatisfactory a Reſult of your Excellency's Inquiries, reduces His Majeſty to the diſagreeable

diſagreeable Neceſſity of demanding a preciſe and categorical Anſwer from the Court of *Madrid*, relative to their Intention with regard to *Great Britain* in this critical Conjuncture; and therefore, it is His Majeſty's expreſs Command, that your Excellency, making ſuch Uſe of this Diſpatch, as you ſhall judge proper, do, without Loſs of Time, demand of the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State, in His Majeſty's Name, an immediate, clear, and categorical Anſwer to that Queſtion; and that you do aſſure M. *Wall*, with becoming Firmneſs, and in the moſt explicit Terms, that any Procraſtination, Ambiguity, or Evaſion, will be conſidered as ample and ſufficient Grounds, for authorizing His Majeſty to take ſuch Steps as His Royal Wiſdom ſhall dictate, for the Honour and Dignity of His Crown, and for the Protection and Security of His People. At the ſame Time that your Excellency cannot be too firm and explicit upon this Queſtion, you will be particularly cautious, not to uſe the leaſt Harſhneſs in your Manner, or mix any thing in your Converſation with the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, which can have the leaſt Tendency to indiſpoſe or irritate him. Nothing would more eſſentially contribute to His Majeſty's real Satisfaction, than your Excellency's bringing back that Court to a diſpaſſionate and reaſonable Way of Thinking; and your procuring ſuch an Anſwer, as might juſtify His Majeſty's Continuation of the ſame friendly and amicable Intercourſe, which is not more the Intereſt of both Countries, than His Majeſty's ſincere Deſire. Various are the Proofs that could be given of this Diſpoſition of His Majeſty: Notorious it is to all *Europe*, that, in His Majeſty's Councils, every Thing which might indicate a Tendency to break through that good Underſtanding between the two Courts, which He is ſo anxious to maintain, has been cautiouſly avoided. Happy, if ſuch Meaſures, properly attributed to the Rectitude of His Royal Mind, ſhould contribute towards the ſalutary Effects which His Moderation thereby propoſed: But ſhould, on the contrary, a falſe and injurious Interpretation, conſtrue into Timidity, His Majeſty's Deſire of maintaining Peace with *Spain*, provided that Deſire was reciprocal on the Part of the Catholick King; and ſhould a Rupture enſue, after every becoming Facility given on the Part of *Great Britain*; His Majeſty will, at leaſt, have the Conſolation to reflect, that, whatever the Conſequences may be, he can appeal to all the World for the Rectitude and Purity of His Intentions, and for the Moderation he has obſerved, in endeavouring to prevent ſo great a Calamity, by every Step which His Honour and Dignity could permit.

I am, *&c.*

EGREMONT.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont *to the Earl of* Briſtol, *dated* Nov. 19, 1761. *Moſt Secret.*

My LORD,

HAving, in my publick Letter of this Date, ſignified to your Excellency the King's Pleaſure, with regard to your Letter of the 2d Inſtant, by *Potter*; I have it further in Command from His Majeſty, to acquaint your Excellency, for your particular Government in a Matter of ſo much Importance, that, if the Court of *Spain* ſhould have refuſed to give your Excellency the Satisfaction required in my moſt Secret Letter of the 28th paſt, or the Alternative, which, by my ſecret and confidential Letter of the ſame Date, your Excellency was permitted to take *ad referendum*; or that, having demanded the categorical Anſwer required of M. *Wall* in my Letter of this Day's Date, he ſhould, either in direct Terms, or by Implication, acknowledge having entered into any Agreement with, or entertaining any Intention of joining, the *French* in this War, or of acting hoſtilely towards the King, or any ways departing from their Neutrality; it is the King's Pleaſure, That, in any of thoſe Caſes, your Excellency do forthwith come away from *Madrid* without taking Leave, and repair with all convement Speed to *Liſbon*, where you will find a Ship of War ready to receive your Excellency, and to ſail with you to *England*; And you are to ſignify to the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, that either a peremptory Refuſal of giving any Satisfaction, or of diſavowing any Intentions to take Part with our declared and inveterate Enemies in the preſent War, cannot be looked upon by His Majeſty in any Light, but as an Aggreſſion on the Part of *Spain*, and as an abſolute Declaration of War.

I am, *&c.*

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont *to the Earl of* Briſtol, *dated* November 19*th*, 1761. *Separate and Secret.*

My LORD,

I Am commanded by the King to acquaint your Excellency, that, in caſe you ſhall have ſufficient Reaſon to conclude, from the Obſervations which you ſhall have made, from the Time of your diſpatching *Potter* to that of his Return, that there are little or no Hopes of ſuch an Anſwer as your Excellency is ordered to demand from the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, you will, in that Caſe, take the moſt private and moſt expeditious Manner that the Thing will admit of, to give immediate Notice of the critical Situation in which

we ſtand with regard to *Spain*, to Major General *Parſlow* at *Gibraltar*, and to all His Majeſty's Conſuls in *Spain* and *Portugal*, in order that they may put themſelves, and His Majeſty's Trading Subjects, properly on their Guard againſt whatever may happen; and your Excellency will alſo take the proper Means to make the ſame Communication to Sir *Charles Saunders*. But when your Excellency ſhall find your Departure from *Madrid* inevitable, and that, in conformity to His Majeſty's Commands, ſignified by the ſeveral Letters of this Diſpatch, you muſt immediately ſet out for *Liſbon*; in ſuch Caſe, you are, without Loſs of Time, to ſend off, in the moſt ſecure, ſecret, and expeditious Manner, a Letter to Admiral *Saunders*, and another to Commodore *Keppel*, acquainting each of thoſe Officers that you have taken your final Reſolutions to leave the Court of *Madrid*. Your Letter to Admiral *Saunders* you will convey through Major General *Parſlow*, to be forwarded with the utmoſt Expedition to the Admiral; ſending, at the ſame Time, a Duplicate to Mr. *Hay* at *Liſbon*, to be diſpatched by a Frigate which the Lords of the Admiralty have ordered there for that Purpoſe: And your Excellency's Letter to Commodore *Keppel* you will alſo tranſmit to Mr. *Hay*, to be by him forwarded by another Frigate which is ordered to *Liſbon*.

As it is of the utmoſt Importance to His Majeſty's Service, that the Notification of your Excellency's final Reſolution to leave *Madrid*, ſhould not only be made the Moment ſuch Reſolutions are taken by your Excellency, but that they ſhould reach Admiral *Saunders* by the quickeſt and ſecureſt Conveyance poſſible; it is the King's expreſs Command, that, ſhould your Excellency have the leaſt Reaſon to ſuſpect, that the Meſſenger or Perſon whom you ſhall employ to carry ſuch Notification to *Gibraltar* or *Liſbon*, may be intercepted or ſtopped, in that Caſe, your Excellency will immediately ſet out yourſelf for the Frontiers of *Portugal*, and from thence you will diſpatch to Mr. *Hay* your Letters, as well for Admiral *Saunders*, as Commodore *Keppel*, to be forwarded by that Miniſter, as above; and your Excellency will leave ſuch Perſon at *Madrid* as you ſhall think proper, to take Care of your private Affairs there, which muſt neceſſarily be left in ſome Confuſion by your ſtrict Compliance with His Majeſty's Commands on this Head.

I ſhall only add, that a very exact Execution of the King's Commands, ſignified in this Letter, being of the utmoſt Importance to His Majeſty's Service, it is expected, that your Excellency will pay a moſt particular Attention to them.

I am, *&c.*

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Eſcurial, Nov. 9, 1761. *Received* Dec. 3.

My LORD,

ACcounts have lately been tranſmitted to me, from ſeveral Ports of *Spain*, in relation to the military Preparations going forward in this Kingdom; and the whole Diſcourſe runs upon an approaching Rupture between the King and his Catholick Majeſty.

Two *Spaniſh* Ships of War are immediately to ſail from *Cadiz*; the one to convoy the Aſſogues, and the other to protect ſeveral *Dutch* Veſſels freighted with Ammunition and Stores, bound to *Carthagena* in *America*.

Eleven large Ships of the Line, now lying at *Ferrol*, are rigged, manned, and ready to put to Sea at a ſhort Warning, together with Two Frigates; one of which is bound to the *South Seas*, with Cannon Balls, Powder, and many other Implements of War.

By Advices from *Barcelona* I hear, that Two of the Catholick King's Ships of War ſailed from thence, the End of laſt Month, with Two large Barks under their Convoy, loaded with 3500 Barrels of Gunpowder, 1500 Bomb-ſhells, 500 Cheſts of Arms, and a conſiderable Quantity of Cannon Balls of different Dimenſions; which Cargo, it is imagined, is deſtined for the *Spaniſh Weſt Indies*: Many more warlike Stores are ready to be ſhipped from *Catalonia*; and it was reported, an Embargo was laid on large Barks at *Barcelona* for that Purpoſe.

Five Battalions of different Regiments of Infantry, and Two Squadrons of Dragoons, are at *Cadiz*, waiting their final Orders to embark for *America*; This Corps makes in all about 3600 Men.

I have deſired His Majeſty's Conſuls would be very attentive to all that is going forward in the ſeveral Places where they reſide; and that they would not fail ſending me conſtant Accounts of what they obſerved, in order for my being more particular in my Intelligence to your Lordſhip.

I never ſee General *Wall*, to talk upon Buſineſs, but that he expatiates upon the Haughtineſs, with which *Great Britain* has long treated the Crown of *Spain*; as if we imagined, by that Means, to intimidate this Country from purſuing its Claims; or that we ſhould thereby avoid doing Juſtice to the Catholick King, concerning our ill-grounded Settlements upon the Logwood Coaſts, as well as with regard to our denying the *Spaniſh* Subjects the Liberty of Fiſhing upon the *Newfoundland* Coaſts.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Madrid, Nov. 16, 1761. *Received* Dec. 8.

My LORD,

THE Meſſenger *Ardouin* delivered to me on the 10th Inſtant, at the Eſcurial, the Honour of your Lordſhip's Diſpatches of the 28th paſt, with the ſeveral Encloſures therein referred to; and, by the laſt Poſt, I received your Letter of the 20th of the ſame Month, in which your Lordſhip informed me, that all mine to the 21ſt *Sept.* had been regularly laid before His Majeſty.

On *Saturday* the 14th, the Catholick King, with the reſt of the Royal Family, arrived in this Capital, for a Part of the Winter Seaſon.

Immediately after the Receipt of your Lordſhip's Diſpatch, by the Meſſenger, I went to General *Wall*, with whom I had a long Conference: I have ſeen his Excellency once ſince. As the Hurry of the Court's Departure from the Eſcurial, prevented my having any Anſwer at that Time; and the preſent Buſtle, attending the Arrival at the *Buen Retiro*, will not allow the *Spaniſh* Miniſter Leiſure, for ſome Days, to renew our Diſcourſes on the intereſting Subject contained in His Majeſty's Commands to me; I muſt ſuſpend ſending Home any Account of my Negotiations, till I can give a particular Detail of the Whole.

The military Preparations in this Kingdom, are very far from ſlackening. Sixteen hundred Men, Draughts from different Corps of Infantry, with ſeveral Officers, entered the Town of *Ferrol* the Beginning of this Month; they were expected to embark ſhortly for the *Weſt Indies*, and are to be eſcorted by Three Ships of the Line.

A Regiment of Foot is lately gone to *Majorca*, and another has Orders to hold itſelf in Readineſs to be ſent to the ſame Iſland.

The *Spaniards* have, at preſent, including all their Naval Force in *America*, Nineteen Ships of War in thoſe Seas: I have heard various Accounts of the Number of Frigates which attend that *Weſt India* Fleet, but I believe there are not fewer than Sixteen of different Sizes.

What may be the ultimate Reſolution of this Court, no One can, as yet, pretend entirely to determine; but, it is certain, his Catholick Majeſty is taking every Meaſure, which can put him in a Condition to be prepared for all Events. It is difficult to attain at the real Truth of any of the *Spaniſh* Projects; for, where One Man only is conſulted, Secrecy and Expedition muſt naturally attend the Execution of their Deſigns.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Madrid, Nov. 23, 1761. *Received* Dec. 14.

My LORD,

THE Comte *de la Tour*, Ambaſſador from the Court of *Turin*, preſented his Re-credential Letters Yeſterday to the Catholick King, in a private Audience; the bad State of this Miniſter's Health, for ſeveral Months paſt, had obliged him to ſolicit his Sardinian Majeſty's Leave to retire from Buſineſs.

It will not be poſſible for me to re-diſpatch a Meſſenger to *England* for ſeveral Days, notwithſtanding my having had another long Conference with M. *Wall*, at which I entered minutely into every Argument ſuggeſted to me by your Lordſhip. Altho' I dare not flatter myſelf with having gained any Ground upon the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, yet I never before obſerved his Excellency liſten with greater Attention to my Diſcourſe, than at our late Meeting. When he anſwered me, it was without Warmth; when he applied to me, it was friendly; and, after long Reaſonings on both Sides, we parted with reciprocal Proteſtations to each other, of our earneſt Deſire to continue in Peace. General *Wall* alſo promiſed me, to acquaint his Catholick Majeſty circumſtantially, with what had paſſed between us. I intreat your Lordſhip not to think me inconſequential in what I relate: It is my Duty to mention the Reſult of each Interview with the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State. All I ſent an Account of in my Letters of the 2d Inſtant, was literally what had happened at that Time; and the Charge I have juſt hinted, when I laſt ſaw M. *Wall*, is equally certain.

Our Enemies have unjuſtly aſſerted, that the Indians, who are beſieging the *Spaniſh* Fort of *Penſacola*, were prompted to that Undertaking by the King's Subjects, and are even now aſſiſted by the *Georgians*, in carrying on their Attacks. I do not think General *Wall* gives Credit to ſo great a Falſhood, advanced by the *French*; but, if the Catholick King could harbour ſo ungenerous a Suſpicion of our Conduct, I hope I have ſaid enough to his Miniſter, to prove, how very far we ſhould be from countenancing ſuch a Proceeding, much leſs promoting ſo hoſtile a Meaſure, againſt a Power, whoſe Friendſhip *Great Britain* was ſeeking to cultivate.

I ſeized on that favourable Opportunity of expatiating on the inſeparable Connection of Intereſts, that could not fail (I hoped ſoon) to unite us, notwithſtanding the mean Artifices, and inſidious Attempts, which *France*, under the ſpecious Veil of Friendſhip towards the Court of *Madrid*, had employed to ſow Diſſenſion between us; and that merely with a View to drain theſe Royal Coffers of it's Treaſure, to be expended for the Support of their declining Colonies, without any real Regard to the *Spaniſh* Pretenſions.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Tranſlation of a Paper delivered by the Count de Fuentes *to the Earl of* Egremont, Dec. 21, 1761.

MY Lord *Briſtol* gave me, ſome Days ſince, the incloſed Memorial. He ſets forth, in the firſt Article, the Satisfaction of his Court, in the King's Juſtice, in ordering the Reſtitution of the Ship the *Speedwell*, and in the Moderation with which the Privateer the *King George* has been treated: There is nothing to anſwer to this. His Majeſty is very glad that his Rectitude and Moderation are acknowledged by the *Britiſh* Miniſtry.

My Lord *Briſtol* ſays, in the ſecond Article, that having communicated to his Court, in a Diſpatch in the Month of *September* laſt, agreeably to the Aſſurances he had received, the King's Intention to cultivate a good Correſpondence with His Britannick Majeſty; he had been expreſsly ordered to make known the real Pleaſure which ſuch a Declaration of the Sentiments of our Court had occaſioned. I do not remember any Thing, at this Time, more particular, than on an infinite Number of other Occaſions; neither do I myſelf comprehend the Motive for heightening this. It is very true, that, at all Times, either in the Reign of the late King Don *Ferdinand*, or in that of the preſent King, the *Spaniſh* Miniſters have always repeated the Deſire of their Court, to cultivate the moſt perfect Correſpondence with that of *London*. My Lord *Briſtol* adds, in the ſame Article, that he muſt not omit to aſſure, that no Order has been ſent for augmenting the Fortifications of *Gibraltar*: This does not ſurprize the King, as he has not given Cauſe for the leaſt Suſpicion; and he would be no more ſurprized at the contrary, the *Engliſh* being no leſs Maſters to augment them, than the King is to do it in his own Places.

There follows another Article, wherein my Lord *Briſtol* expreſſes, that the King his Maſter has nothing more at Heart, than to ſtrengthen the moſt cordial and the moſt ſincere Friendſhip with the King, and that he does not doubt of meeting with the ſame Diſpoſitions on the Part of *Spain*; for there is nothing more evident than the mutual Advantage which muſt, at all Times, reſult to the Two Kingdoms from ſuch a Reciprocity. All this Diſcourſe is only to bring in, after ſuch a Declaration, that it ought not to be ſurprizing, that his Court wiſhes, and requires, from the *Spaniſh* Miniſters, a Communication of the Treaty lately concluded between the King and his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, or the Articles that relate to her. You know how eaſy it would be for the King to give a poſitive Anſwer, but his own Dignity hinders him from it; conſidering this Demand as a neceſſary Condition for entering upon a Negotiation with *Spain*, on Differences, which they own have ſubſiſted a long Time; without which (he ſays) how can His Majeſty perſuade himſelf to enter upon a Negotiation with *Spain*? Whoever ſhould hear talk of entering upon a Negotiation, would believe, that it was not as yet begun, and that our Differences had never been ſpoke of. It would alſo be thought, that a Favour was done us, by conſidering them as worthy

thy of a Negotiation. It is a very ſingular Method of that Miniſtry, not to mention ſo many Offices, Memorials, and Conferences, which have paſſed within theſe Six Years, and particularly after the King ſent you to that Court, by which both our juſt Pretenſions, and the inconteſtable Right of our Complaints, are proved; always confirming, that without a Reparation, it is impoſſible to cement the good Correſpondence of the Two Monarchies, or the Friendſhip of the Two Sovereigns, ſo worthy of the Reciprocity of their Eſteem. If all that we have ſet forth, both by Word of Mouth, and in Writing; if all the Anſwers and Replies on each Side; in a Word, if ſo many Proofs with which we have concluded, are not called a Negotiation, I don't know what can be one.

My Lord *Briſtol* promiſes, that, if the King makes known the Exiſtence, or Nonexiſtence, of the ſaid Treaty, or his Engagements relative to the *Engliſh*, the King his Maſter, this Obſtacle once removed, is determined, without Loſs of Time, to enter into an amicable Diſcuſſion of the Matters, which make the Subject of the Diſputes of the Two Crowns; not at all doubting, but that they may be eaſily adjuſted, and being convinced, that a reciprocal and extenſive Confidence, cannot fail to ſuggeſt Expedients to ſave the Dignity and the Honour of the Two Kings. Even what his Court pretends to, ought not to be conſidered as of great Value to her, ſince ſhe only offers in return, what we are tired of doing. What other Diſcuſſion of the Matter of our Diſputes, than what has been agitated, during ſo long a Negotiation; what other Expedients can be found, to ſave the Honour and Dignity of the Two Kings, that have not been propoſed, and exhauſted, in a Conteſt of Six Years? and if any are found at *London*, *Spain* well deſerves, by the Patience with which ſhe has purſued her Inſtances, and with which ſhe has ſeen the various Succeſſes of the *Engliſh* in this War, the Correſpondence of declaring them to her without Condition. The moſt noble Expedient, and which does the moſt Honour to Sovereigns, and to thoſe who are not ſo, is not to poſſeſs, without Right, the Property of another Perſon; to reſtore it, and even to chaſtiſe the Uſurpers, without waiting, if it can be, till the Injured demands it.

My Lord *Briſtol* ends, with an Article abſolutely foreign to our Affairs, by declaring, that the moſt perfect Unanimity reigns in the Councils of *Great Britain*; and that the King is reſolved to puſh the War with all poſſible Vigour, till His Enemies will ſubmit to a Peace, ſuitable to the Succeſſes of the *Engliſh* Arms, and which may have a ſolid and durable Appearance. We have no Idea of anſwering directly to this Article: But the Two Conditions, which the *Engliſh* deſire in the Peace, clearly contradict themſelves, as all the World have juſt ſeen. Every impartial Perſon will decide, that the Conditions which have been offered by *France*, and rejected by *England*, were not diſproportioned to the Advantages of the *Engliſh* Arms; and will attribute their Inadmiſſion to other Views, which ought not to be indifferent

to

to the other Maritime Powers, and who poſſeſs Dominions beyond Sea; and will be aſtoniſhed to ſee, that *England*, who wiſhes for a Peace that appears ſolid and durable, is angry, however, at the Inſinuation made to her by *France*, repreſenting to her, how beneficial it would be, to reconcile, at the ſame Time, our Differences, in order to avoid the Danger of recommencing a new War, for our Aſſiſtance.

My Lord *Briſtol* demanded of us then, by another Memorial, if *France* had taken that Step with the King's Conſent; as he now demands of us, if the Treaty with *France*, exiſts or not. We anſwered him ſincerely, yes; proving to him the Regularity of it: And we added, on that Occaſion, to the Expreſſions of that Court, on the good Correſpondence which they wiſhed for, how much they were eſteemed; but that it was neceſſary, that the Proofs of the Fact ſhould accompany them; and, as if ſuch a Memorial had never been given on our Side, and entirely forgetting it, another is preſented to us, with a new Demand, with the former general Expreſſions, and with ſo unexpected a Novelty, as the Offer to enter into a Negotiation, ſo ſtrongly diſcuſſed, that it has been reduced, during your Embaſſy, to the laſt Yes, or to the laſt No.

When once you ſhall be informed of all that I have juſt ſet forth, you may acquaint that Miniſtry of it, either by Word of Mouth, or in Writing; in order that we may never be reproached, for not having anſwered my Lord *Briſtol*'s Memorial; and in order that they may perceive the Irregularity there is, that the King ſhould always ſatisfy their Curioſity, and that his juſt Demands ſhould never be ſatisfied.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont *to the Earl of* Briſtol, *dated* December *the* 22*d*, 1761.

My LORD,

I AM to acquaint your Excellency, that it is reported in the City, that Part of Admiral *Holmes*'s Squadron has lately ſeized ſome *Spaniſh* Barks at *Monte Chriſti*, laden with Sugar, *&c.* and has treated them as if they were legal Prize.

Though this Intelligence is hitherto unſupported by any Information which our moſt diligent Enquiries can collect at the Admiralty, or elſewhere, yet I had the King's Permiſſion to ſpeak of it to the *Conde de Fuentes*, and to expreſs His Majeſty's Concern upon hearing it; to which I added His Majeſty's Aſſurances, that this Matter ſhall be moſt ſtrictly enquired into; and, ſhould the Facts alledged prove true, not a Moment ſhall be loſt in taking ſuch Steps, as, it is not doubted, will thoroughly ſatisfy his Catholick Majeſty with regard to the unjuſtifiable and unauthorized Conduct of any of His Servants upon this Occaſion: And that nothing might be omitted which could lead to a ſpeedy and thorough

Knowledge of this Matter, the King has ordered a Ship of War to be immediately diſpatched to the *Weſt Indies*, with Directions, to make the ſtricteſt Examination into the Foundation for this Report, that ſuch farther Steps may be taken as the Caſe ſhall appear to require.

It is in order to prevent the malicious Uſe which might be made of this unlucky Accident, and to ſhew His Majeſty's Readineſs to do the ſtricteſt Juſtice to the Catholick King, that I am directed to tranſmit to your Excellency, without Loſs of Time, the real State of this Affair; not doubting but your Excellency, without any particular Directions on this Head, will, at this critical Conjuncture, let M. *Wall* ſee, in a true Light, and in it's full Extent, that it is not more the invariable and ſteady Principle of His Majeſty's Conduct towards the Crown of *Spain*, to ſupport His own Dignity and the juſt Rights of His Subjects, than it is, not only to redreſs a real Injury done to his Catholick Majeſty's Subjects, but even to prevent a Complaint.

I am, *&c.*

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Madrid, Dec. *the* 11*th*, 1761. *Received* December *the* 24*th*.

My LORD,

THIS is the only Method I am allowed to take, to communicate to your Lordſhip my Intention of ſetting out as ſoon as poſſible for *Liſbon*. I have obeyed the King's Commands. By the Paper marked (A), your Lordſhip ſees the Subſtance of what was mentioned at my Firſt Conference with General *Wall*; by that with the Letter (B), what paſſed at our Second Interview: Copies of both which Papers the *Spaniſh* Miniſter deſired he might have. Theſe Conferences were the 6th and 8th Inſtant. General *Wall*, on the 10th at Night, ſent me Two Letters, one an Office, Copy and Tranſlation of which are diſtinguiſhed *C* and *D*; the other by a private Letter in his own Hand. I had prepared ſome very long Diſpatches for your Lordſhip, relating all Particulars, but I was denied Poſt-horſes to ſend a Meſſenger, even to aſk for Paſſports from the Court of *Portugal*; and M. *de Llanos*, who is juſt gone from me, has owned, in the moſt polite Terms, that I could not, by any Method, ſend any Perſon whatever to any Part of *Spain*, for I know I am ſurrounded with their Spies. I would, if it were poſſible for me, ſet out immediately for the Frontiers of *Portugal*, the neareſt Town of which Kingdom is 240 Miles from hence; and ſuch are the Roads, that no Carriage can go it under Nine Days; but I am, at this Moment, and have been for ſo long, ſo exceſſively out of Order, that, were I to attempt getting from hence even ſo ſoon as I could get

Mules, which all thoſe who furniſh them ſeem to try to delay my doing, my deplorable Situation is ſuch, that I ſhould be forced to ſtop at ſome Village near *Madrid*, without being able to get forward: However, I have tried at a Method I do not mention, for fear of this Letter being decyphered, to convey the whole Intelligence to Admiral *Saunders*, General *Parſlow*, and the Conſuls. Mr. *Porten*, ſeeing how ill I am, has promiſed to ſet out forthwith for *Liſbon*; and by him I ſhall be able to have the Letters forwarded which I have now ready. I propoſe diſpatching a Meſſenger when I do get into *Portugal*, with a great Number of Letters for your Lordſhip. The Meſſenger being to ſet out ſo ſoon, I have not Time to add more.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of Notes given to General Wall, *at our Firſt Conference, the 6th* December, 1761. (A.)

COUNT of *Fuentes* accompanied the Catholick King's Letter to His Majeſty, with the ſtrongeſt Profeſſions of Friendſhip from *Spain*.

The King's particular Delicacy, in concerting military Plans, to avoid any Hoſtilities towards Objects that could give Umbrage to his Catholick Majeſty.

An Anſwer concerning the Treaty; as well as to know the Intention of *Spain*, with regard to *Great Britain*.

Nothing could more eſſentially give real Satisfaction to His Majeſty, than my procuring ſuch an Anſwer, as might contribute to the Continuation of that friendly Intercourſe, which it is not more the Intereſt of both Crowns to maintain, than it is the King's ſincere Deſire to cultivate.

Copy of Notes wrote down in the Cloſet of General Wall, *and given by me to his Excellency,* Tueſday, *the* 8*th* December, *the Day of our Second Conference.* (B.)

WHether the Court of *Madrid* intends to join the *French*, our Enemies, to act hoſtilely againſt *Great Britain?* or to depart, in any Manner, from its Neutrality?

A categorical Anſwer is expected to thoſe Queſtions; otherwiſe, a Refuſal to comply will be looked upon as an Aggreſſion, on the Part of *Spain*, and a Declaration of War.

General

General Wall, B. Retiro, 10 Dec. 1761. *Tranſlation.* (D.)

Moſt Excellent Lord;

My LORD,

YOUR Excellency having expreſſed to me, the Day before Yeſterday, and being even pleaſed to put in Writing, That you had Orders to aſk a poſitive and categorical Anſwer to the Queſtion, If *Spain* thought of joining herſelf with *France* againſt *England?* Declaring, at the ſame Time, that you ſhould look upon the Refuſal as a Declaration of War; and that you would, in conſequence, leave this Court. The Spirit of Haughtineſs and of Diſcord, which dictated this inconſiderate Step, and which, for the Misfortune of Mankind, ſtill reigns ſo much in the *Britiſh* Government, is what made, in the ſame Inſtant, the Declaration of War, and attacked the King's Dignity. Your Excellency may think of retiring when, and in the Manner, is convenient to you; which is the only Anſwer that, without detaining you, his Majeſty has ordered me to give you. The Indiſpoſition your Excellency ſaw me in, ſcarce permitted me to go to receive the King's Commands.

May your Excellency carry away with you all the Happineſs which correſponds to your perſonal Qualities, and the conſtant Remembrance of the ſincere Affection with which I am, praying God for the long Preſervation of your Life,

Buen Retiro, 10 *Dec.* 1761.

Moſt Excellent Lord, I kiſs your Excellency's Hands,

Your obedient Servant,

Don RICARDO WALL.

Private, General Wall, Madrid, 10 Dec. 1761. *Tranſlation.*

My LORD,

MY Uneaſineſs, ever ſince the Moment that your Excellency communicated to me the Orders which you have received from your Court, has not permitted me to delay, any longer, your Excellency's Inſtances, full of Attention; and I have been (notwithſtanding my Indiſpoſition) to give an Account to the King, my Maſter, of the laſt Queſtions which you have been ordered to put to my Court.

Your Excellency will ſee, by the incloſed Letter, what are his Majeſty's Sentiments; you know mine for your Perſon. I hope to have the Honour of ſeeing you, and confirming to you again, by Word of Mouth, the Eſteem and the Reſpect with which I am perfectly,

My LORD,

Your Excellency's moſt Obedient

and moſt Humble Servant,

WALL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Madrid, Nov. 30, 1761. *Received* Dec. 25.

My LORD,

I Was honoured with your Lordſhip's Letter of the 6th Inſtant, by the laſt Poſt; and I received, incloſed therein, His Majeſty's moſt Gracious Speech to both Houſes of Parliament, together with a Copy of the Motion made in the Houſe of Peers to addreſs the King on that Occaſion; in which I had the ſincere Pleaſure of obſerving the warmeſt Returns of Duty and Gratitude expreſſed towards our Sovereign, for the repeated Marks of Royal Care and Affection, which we have all experienced ſince His Majeſty's happy Acceſſion to the Throne.

Altho' M. *Wall* had received the King's Speech from the Count of *Fuentes*, yet I read it over with his Excellency; who told me, he did not doubt of it's giving as much Satisfaction in *England*, as it had met with Approbation Abroad, from the great Candour and Moderation which was diſplayed throughout the Whole.

Your Lordſhip will, I flatter myſelf, do me the Juſtice to believe, that my not diſpatching an Anſwer to your important Diſpatch of the 28th paſt, does not proceed from any Dilatorineſs in me. I have frequently ſeen M. *Wall*, and have as often entered into Diſcourſe concerning what was ſo particularly recommended by your Lordſhip; yet the *Spaniſh* Miniſter has, hitherto, cautiouſly avoided diſcloſing the Sentiments of this Court; alledging, that he expected ſhortly to receive the Catholick King's Commands to acquaint me with the Reſolutions of *Spain*, relative to my Applications: And his Excellency aſſured me, at our laſt Meeting, it would not be long before he ſhould enable me to ſend Home a Meſſenger.

Orders

Orders have been tranſmitted to *Cadiz*, for the fortifying of the *Caracca* in that Neighbourhood. Two large *Spaniſh* Ships of the Line arrived lately there, with Naval Stores, from the *Corunna*.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Tranſlation of a Note delivered to the Earl of Egremont, *by the Count* de Fuentes. December 25th, 1761.

THE Count *de Fuentes*, the Catholick King's Ambaſſador to His *Britannick* Majeſty, has juſt received a Courier from his Court, by whom he is informed, that my Lord *Briſtol*, His *Britannick* Majeſty's Ambaſſador at the Court of *Madrid*, has ſaid to his Excellency Mr. *Wall*, Miniſter of State, That he had Orders to demand a poſitive and categorical Anſwer to this Queſtion, *viz.* If *Spain* thinks of allying herſelf with *France* againſt *England?* and to declare, at the ſame Time, that he ſhould take a Refuſal to his Demand for an Aggreſſion and Declaration of War; and that he ſhould, in conſequence, be obliged to retire from the Court of *Spain*. The above Miniſter of State anſwered him, That ſuch a Step could only be ſuggeſted by the Spirit of Haughtineſs and of Diſcord, which, for the Misfortune of Mankind, ſtill reigns but too much in the *Britiſh* Government; That it was in that very Moment that the War was declared, and the King's Dignity violently attacked: That he might retire how and when he ſhould think proper.

The Count *de Fuentes* is, in conſequence, ordered to leave the Court and the Dominions of *England*; and to declare to the *Britiſh* King, to the *Engliſh* Nation, and to the whole Univerſe, That the Horrors into which the *Spaniſh* and *Engliſh* Nations are going to plunge themſelves, muſt be attributed only to the Pride, and to the unmeaſurable Ambition, of him who has held the Reins of the Government, and who appears ſtill to hold them, although by another Hand: That if his Catholick Majeſty excuſed himſelf from anſwering on the Treaty in Queſtion, between his Catholick Majeſty, and his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, which is believed to have been ſigned the 15th of *Auguſt*, and wherein it is pretended there are Conditions relative to *England*, he had very good Reaſons; Firſt, The King's Dignity required him to manifeſt his juſt Reſentment of the little Management, or to ſpeak more properly, of the inſulting Manner, with which all the Affairs of *Spain* have been treated during Mr. *Pitt*'s Adminiſtration; who, finding himſelf convinced of the Juſtice which ſupported the King in His Pretenſions, his ordinary and laſt Anſwer was, That he would not relax in any Thing, till the Tower of *London* was taken Sword in Hand.

Beſides, his Majeſty was much ſhocked to hear the haughty and imperious Tone, with which the Contents of the Treaty were demanded of him. If the Reſpect, due to Royal Majeſty, had been regarded, Explanations might have been had without any Difficulty: The Miniſters of *Spain* might have ſaid frankly to thoſe of *England*, what the Count *de Fuentes*, by the King's expreſs Order, declares publickly, *viz.* That the ſaid Treaty is only a Convention between the Family of *Bourbon*, wherein there is nothing which has the leaſt Relation to the preſent War: That there is in it an Article for the mutual Guaranty of the Dominions of the Two Sovereigns; but it is ſpecified therein, that that Guaranty is not to be underſtood but of the Dominions which ſhall remain to *France*, after the preſent War ſhall be ended: That although his Catholick Majeſty might have had Reaſon to think himſelf offended, by the irregular Manner in which the Memorial was returned to M. *de Buſſy* Miniſter of *France*, which he had preſented, for terminating the Differences of *Spain* and *England*, at the ſame Time with the War between This laſt and *France*, he has however diſſembled; and from an Effect of his Love of Peace, cauſed a Memorial to be delivered to my Lord *Briſtol*, wherein it is evidently demonſtrated, that the Step of *France*, which put the Miniſter *Pitt* into ſo bad Humour, did not at all offend either the Laws of Neutrality, or the Sincerity of the Two Sovereigns: That further, from a freſh Proof of his pacific Spirit, the King of *Spain* wrote to the King of *France*, his Couſin, That if the Union of Intereſt, in any Manner retarded the Peace with *England*, he conſented to ſeparate himſelf from it, not to put any Obſtacle to ſo great a Happineſs. But it was ſoon ſeen that this was only a Pretence, on the Part of the *Engliſh* Miniſter: For, That of *France*, continuing his Negotiation, without making any Mention of *Spain*, and propoſing Conditions very advantageous and honourable for *England*, the Miniſter *Pitt*, to the great Aſtoniſhment of the Univerſe, rejected them with Diſdain; and ſhewed, at the ſame Time, his Ill-will againſt *Spain*, to the Scandal of the ſame *Britiſh* Council; and unfortunately he has ſucceeded but too far in his pernicious Deſign.

This Declaration made, the Count *de Fuentes* deſires his Excellency, my Lord *Egremont*, to preſent his moſt humble Reſpects to His *Britannick* Majeſty; and to obtain for him Paſſports, and all other Facilities, for him, his Family, and all his Retinue, to go out of the Dominions of *Great Britain*, without any Trouble, and to go by the ſhort Paſſage of the Sea, which ſeparates them from the Continent.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Madrid, Dec. 7, 1761. *Received* Dec. 29.

My LORD,

I Received laſt Poſt the Honour of your Lordſhip's Letter of the 17th of *Nov.* incloſing the Addreſs, preſented the preceding Day to His Majeſty, by the Houſe of Commons, wherein the very warm and affectionate Aſſurances of their Zeal for the King's Service, and Reſolutions to ſupport His Majeſty with the utmoſt Vigour, in the Proſecution of the War, were ſo ſatisfactorily evident to all His Majeſty's dutiful Servants, and Subjects. You cannot doubt, my Lord, of my having carried the Addreſs to General *Wall*; his Excellency read it over before me with Attention, and afterwards ſaid, That it was full of a right and proper Zeal; at the ſame Time, that it was truly dutiful and affectionate; adding, that he was perſuaded, the King would always experience from his moſt faithful Commons, the like Sentiments, at which he ſhould ever truly rejoice.

The Patriarch of the *Indies* received laſt *Saturday* the Cardinal's Cap from *Rome*, having been named to that Dignity by His Catholick Majeſty: His Eminence is Brother to the Duke of *Medina Celi*, and now is ſtiled Cardinal *de la Cerda*.

The Meſſenger *Potter* arrived here the 5th Inſtant at Night, and brought me the Honour of your Lordſhip's Diſpatches of the 19th paſt. I ſaw M. *Wall* the 6th in the Morning, who was confined to his Room, by an Accident that had happened to one of his Feet. We had a very long Conference upon the Subject of your Lordſhip's Letters; and his Excellency has this Day wrote to acquaint me, with his Deſire of my returning to him to-morrow Morning; ſo that I expect to be able to diſpatch this Meſſenger to *England* in a few Days.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Tranſlation of the Anſwer delivered to the Count de Fuentes, *by the Earl of* Egremont, Dec. 31, 1761.

THE Earl of *Egremont*, His Britannick Majeſty's Secretary of State, having received from his Excellency the Count *de Fuentes*, Ambaſſador of the Catholick King at the Court of *London*, a Paper, in which, beſides the Notification of his Recall, and the Demand of the neceſſary Paſſports to go out of the King's Dominions, he has thought proper to enter into what has

juſt paſſed between the Two Courts, with a View to make That of *London* appear as the Source of all the Misfortunes which may inſue from the Rupture which has happened. In order that no body may be miſled, by the Declaration which his Excellency has been pleaſed to make to the King, to the *Engliſh* Nation, and to the whole Univerſe; notwithſtanding the Inſinuation, as void of Foundation as of Decency, of the Spirit of Haughtineſs and of Diſcord, which his Excellency pretends reigns in the *Britiſh* Government, to the Misfortune of Mankind; and, notwithſtanding the Irregularity and Indecency of appealing to the *Engliſh* Nation, as if it could be ſeparated from it's King, for whom the moſt determined Sentiments of Love, of Duty, and of Confidence, are engraved in the Hearts of all his Subjects; the ſaid Earl of *Egremont*, by His Majeſty's Order, laying aſide, in this Anſwer, all Spirit of Declamation, and of Harſhneſs, avoiding every offenſive Word, which might hurt the Dignity of Sovereigns, without ſtooping to Invectives againſt private Perſons, will confine himſelf to Facts with the moſt ſcrupulous Exactneſs: And it is from this Repreſentation of Facts, that he appeals to all *Europe*, and to the whole Univerſe, for the Purity of the King's Intentions, and for the Sincerity of the Wiſhes His Majeſty has not ceaſed to make, as well as for the Moderation He has always ſhewed, though in vain, for the Maintenance of Friendſhip and good Underſtanding, between the *Britiſh* and *Spaniſh* Nations.

The King having received undoubted Informations, That the Court of *Madrid* had ſecretly contracted Engagements with that of *Verſailles*, which the Miniſters of *France* laboured to repreſent, in all the Courts of *Europe*, as offenſive to *Great Britain*; and combining theſe Appearances with the Step which the Court of *Spain* had, a little Time before, taken, towards His Majeſty, in avowing it's Conſent, (though that Avowal had been followed by Apologies) to the Memorial preſented the 23d of *July*, by the Sieur *de Buſſy*, Miniſter Plenipotentiary of the moſt Chriſtian King, to the King's Secretary of State; and His Majeſty having afterwards received Intelligence, ſcarce admitting a Doubt, of Troops marching, and of Military Preparations making in all the Ports of *Spain*, judged that His Dignity, as well as His Prudence, required Him to order His Ambaſſador at the Court of *Madrid*, by a Diſpatch dated the 28th of *October*, to demand, in Terms the moſt meaſured, however, and the moſt amicable, a Communication of the Treaty recently concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Verſailles*, or, at leaſt, of the Articles which might relate to the Intereſt of *Great Britain*; And, in order to avoid every thing which could be thought to imply the leaſt Slight of the Dignity, or even the Delicacy, of his Catholick Majeſty, the Earl of *Briſtol* was authorized to content himſelf with Aſſurances, in caſe the Catholick King offered to give any, that the ſaid Engagements did not contain any Thing that was contrary to the Friendſhip which ſubſiſted between the Two Crowns, or that was prejudicial to the Intereſts of *Great Britain*, ſuppoſing that any Difficulty was made, of ſhewing the Treaty. The King could not give a leſs equivocal Proof, of His Dependance on the good Faith of the Catholick King, than in

ſhewing

ſhewing him an unbounded Confidence in ſo important an Affair, and which ſo eſſentially intereſted His own Dignity, the Good of His Kingdoms, and the Happineſs of His People.

How great then was the King's Surprize, when, inſtead of receiving the juſt Satisfaction which He had a Right to expect, He learnt from His Ambaſſador, that, having addreſſed himſelf to the Miniſter of *Spain* for that Purpoſe, he could only draw from him a Refuſal, to give a ſatisfactory Anſwer to His Majeſty's juſt Requiſitions, which he had accompanied with Terms that breathed nothing but Haughtineſs, Animoſity, and Menace, and which ſeemed ſo ſtrongly to verify the Suſpicions of the unamicable Diſpoſition of the Court of *Spain*, that nothing leſs than His Majeſty's Moderation, and His Reſolution taken to make all the Efforts poſſible, to avoid the Misfortunes inſeparable from a Rupture, could determine Him to make a laſt Trial, by giving Orders to His Ambaſſador, to addreſs himſelf to the Miniſter of *Spain*, to deſire him to inform him of the Intentions of the Court of *Madrid*, towards That of *Great Britain*, in this Conjuncture, if they had taken Engagements, or formed the Deſign to join the King's Enemies in the preſent War, or to depart in any Manner from the Neutrality they had hitherto obſerved; and to make That Miniſter ſenſible, that, if they perſiſted in refuſing all Satisfaction, on Demands ſo juſt, ſo neceſſary, and ſo intereſting, the King could not but conſider ſuch a Refuſal as the moſt authentick Avowal, that *Spain* had taken her Part, and that there only remained for His Majeſty to take the Meaſures, which His Royal Prudence ſhould dictate, for the Honour and Dignity of His Crown, and for the Proſperity and Protection of His People: And to recall His Ambaſſador.

Unhappily for the publick Tranquility, for the Intereſt of the Two Nations, and for the Good of Mankind, this laſt Step was as fruitleſs as the preceding Ones; The *Spaniſh* Miniſter, keeping no further Meaſures, anſwered drily, "That it was in That very Moment, that the War was declared, and "the King's Dignity attacked, and that the Earl of *Briſtol* might retire, how, "and when, he ſhould think proper."

And in order to ſet in its true Light, the Declaration, "That, if the Re"ſpect due to his Catholick Majeſty had been regarded, Explanations might "have been had without any Difficulty; and that the Miniſters of *Spain* "might have ſaid frankly, as M. *de Fuentes*, by the King's expreſs Order, de"clares publickly, That the ſaid Treaty is only a Convention between the "Family of *Bourbon*; wherein there is nothing which has the leaſt Relation "to the preſent War; and that the Guaranty, which is therein ſpecified, is "not to be underſtood but of the Dominions which ſhall remain to *France* af"ter the War." It is declared, that, very far from thinking of being wanting to the Reſpect acknowledged to be due to Crowned Heads, the Inſtructions given to the Earl of *Briſtol* have always been, to make the Requiſitions on the Subject of the Engagements between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Verſailles*, with all the Decency, and all the Attention poſſible: And the Demand of a categorical

rical Anſwer was not made, till after repeated and the moſt ſtinging Refuſals to give the leaſt Satisfaction, and at the laſt Extremity. Therefore, if the Court of *Spain* ever had the Deſign to give this ſo neceſſary Satisfaction, they had not the leaſt Reaſon that ought to have engaged them to defer it to the Moment when it could no longer be of uſe. But, fortunately, the Terms in which the Declaration is conceived, ſpare us the Regret of not having received it ſooner; for it appears, at firſt Sight, that the Anſwer is not at all conformable to the Demand. We wanted to be informed, If the Court of *Spain* intended to join the *French*, our Enemies, to make War on *Great Britain*; or to depart from their Neutrality? Whereas the Anſwer concerns one Treaty only, which is ſaid to be of the 15th of *Auguſt*; carefully avoiding to ſay the leaſt Word that could explain, in any Manner, the Intentions of *Spain* towards *Great Britain*, or the further Engagements they may have contracted in the preſent Criſis.

After a Deduction as exact as faithful of what has paſſed between the Two Courts, it is left to the impartial Publick to decide, which of the Two has always been inclined to Peace, and which was determined on War.

As to the reſt, the Earl of *Egremont* has the Honour to acquaint his Excellency the Count *de Fuentes*, by the King's Order, That the neceſſary Paſſports for him ſhall be expedited; and that they will not fail to procure him all poſſible Facilities for his Paſſage to the Port which he ſhall think moſt convenient.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *Moſt Secret. Dated* Madrid, Dec. 6, 1761. *Received* Jan. 9, 1762.

My LORD,

I Took the earlieſt Opportunity, after receiving the Honour of your Lordſhip's Diſpatches of the 28th of *October*, of informing General *Wall*, how particularly His Majeſty had expreſſed His Royal Satisfaction at hearing the Declarations, which had been made to me by his Excellency, of the Catholick King's Intentions to cultivate a cloſe Correſpondence with His Majeſty; and I told the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, I could then authentically aſſure him, that no Orders had been iſſued for augmenting the Fortifications at *Gibraltar*.

After dwelling upon the King's Readineſs to come to a ſpeedy Adjuſtment of all the Differences ſubſiſting between the Two Courts, my Diſcourſe naturally led towards a Repetition of thoſe Profeſſions I had, on former Occaſions, ſo frequently made uſe of, to convince the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State, that the King had nothing more at Heart, than to continue, and, if poſſible, to augment, that Friendſhip and Cordiality, which His Majeſty ſincerely felt for the Catholick King; not doubting, but that the like Diſpoſition, together with a ſuitable Return from *Spain*, would be the correſponding Effect of ſuch an Avowal of His Majeſty's Sentiments. After

After opening myſelf in this Manner, I obſerved, how conſiſtent it was with the good Intelligence that had ſo long united Two friendly Courts, reciprocally to enquire into, or to remove, any Uneaſineſſes, which the Envy and Malice of a Third might endeavour to ſow in the Minds of either of thoſe amicable Powers. Therefore, after *France* had ſo openly, as well as induſtriouſly, aſſerted throughout *Europe*, and but with too much Succeſs, That *Spain* was on the Point of embarking in the preſent War againſt *England*, in conſequence of a Treaty lately concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Verſailles*; it was neither ſurprizing, nor could it be deemed unreaſonable, that His Majeſty ſhould deſire a Communication of that Treaty; or, at leaſt, of ſuch Articles, as might be deemed to relate, either now or hereafter, immediately or indirectly, to the Intereſts of *Great Britain*: I took Care to explain, that the preſſing Inſtances I was ordered to make, did not proceed from any Diſtruſt in the King, of the reiterated Aſſurances of *Spain*'s Friendſhip towards *England*, conveyed ſo authentically through me, nor from a Suſpicion of his Catholick Majeſty's entering into any Engagements of a hoſtile Nature againſt the King, after all the cordial Profeſſions which had been made uſe of, ſo much to the contrary; yet the poſitive Language of our Enemies, and their boaſting Aſſertions, were ſuch, that it was highly expedient to ſtop the unfavourable Impreſſions they had occaſioned at other Courts; therefore the King judged it to be indiſpenſably neceſſary for the Dignity of His Crown, and not leſs ſo for the Intereſts of His People, to require an Explanation relative to a Report ſo univerſally credited, before His Majeſty could conſent to proceed in a Negotiation with this Court, towards a juſt and equitable Regulation of our long depending Differences: Beſides, as *Spain* had regularly received extenſive Communications of all His Majeſty's Alliances or Connections, an unfriendly Reſerve towards the King, concerning a Treaty ſo recently concluded between this Court and that of *France*, His Majeſty's declared as well as inveterate Enemy, would unavoidably prevent any candid and impartial Diſcuſſion of the Claims, Rights, or Differences, of the Two Kingdoms; yet, this Obſtacle once removed, His Majeſty was determined, without Loſs of Time, to diſcuſs, in the moſt open and cordial Manner, the ſeveral Diſputes of both Crowns; not doubting, but that a mutual Confidence would indicate Expedients, which, whilſt they ſaved the Dignity and Honour of both Kings, would naturally point out the Method of adjuſting Matters to the mutual Satisfaction, the reciprocal Contentment, and, conſequently, the permanent Advantage, of both Nations.

As the *French* Partiſans had ſo ſucceſsfully perſuaded many conſiderable Perſons at this Court, that the Spirit of the War would ſubſide by the late Change in the *Engliſh* Miniſtry, that Diſunion and an unconnected Syſtem now preſided amongſt the ſeveral Members who compoſe the preſent Adminiſtration; I thought it highly incumbent upon me, to mention the thorough Harmony and perfect Unanimity which ſubſiſted in His Majeſty's Councils, together with the ſettled Determination to carry on the War with Vigour,

altho' His Majeſty, from His great Clemency and unequall'd Moderation, continued to be uniformly diſpoſed to put a Stop to the dreadful Calamities of War, as ſoon as the King could perceive His Enemies were inclined to agree to ſuch Terms, as the Honour of His Crown, and the Succeſs of His Majeſty's Forces, naturally claimed; without which there could be no Proſpect of a laſting, ſolid Peace, ſuch as might inſure Mankind from the dreadful Calamities ſo many Nations had, during the preſent War, experienced in the different Parts of the World.

For greater Accuracy, and to avoid blending my own Diſcourſe with the *Spaniſh* Miniſter's Reaſonings, I have united, in the former Part of this Letter, the chief Subſtance of what I advanced in our ſeveral Conferences; and will now proceed to relate the principal Tenor of M. *Wall*'s Arguments, without intermixing any of my Anſwers thereto, in order to obviate any Appearance of Confuſion.

His Excellency firſt mentioned his having received the Catholick King's Commands to aſſure me, how agreeable it was to this Court, to find the Uprightneſs and Moderation of *Spain* was acknowledged, where it had given ſo much Satisfaction: he added, his not recollecting the particular Dates of thoſe Times, when his Excellency had aſſured me of the ſincere Diſpoſitions of his Catholick Majeſty, to cultivate the cloſeſt Correſpondence with the King, ſince he had, on ſo many Occaſions, repeated the ſame Aſſurances.

M. *Wall* received, with an apparent Indifference, what I ſaid concerning there having been no additional Works carried on at *Gibraltar*, when I laſt hinted it; yet that was not the Caſe, when I firſt communicated to the *Spaniſh* Miniſter the Contents of General *Parſlow*'s Letter, wherein it was poſitively aſſerted, there had not been any Augmentation to the Fortifications of that Place.

His Excellency then told me, the warm and ſtrong Expreſſions I had made uſe of, to convey the King's earneſt Deſire to cultivate the cloſeſt Correſpondence with his Catholick Majeſty, could never be received, but with ſincere Satisfaction, by the Court of *Madrid*; yet, after my having been ſo often directed to hold the ſame Language, unaccompanied by any Proofs of thoſe Diſpoſitions, it could not ſeem extraordinary, if *Spain* ſtill ſought and preſſed the Redreſs of thoſe Grievances which had been ſo long depending, and which ſhe thought herſelf ſo little advanced towards obtaining the Relief of.

With regard to the Treaty lately concluded between the Catholick King, and his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, the Secretary of State ſaid, his Royal Maſter did not judge it to be conſiſtent with his Dignity, to grant either the Communication of it, or to ſatisfy the *Britiſh* Curioſity, in relation to any Articles which we imagined had a Relation to our Concerns; yet his Excellency added, as from himſelf, he could give a poſitive Anſwer to what I aſked with the utmoſt Facility; but here he broke off.

After

After ſome Pauſe, the *Spaniſh* Miniſter reſumed his Diſcourſe, by alledging, his Court had been flattered, by that of *London*, with an impartial Diſcuſſion of their Diſputes from the Year 1754; therefore the preſent Promiſe of entering into a fair Diſquiſition of our reciprocal Claims, after the Catholick King had reſolved our Queſtion concerning the late Treaty, ſeemed to infer, that all the Memorials and counter Memorials, with the ſeveral Offices, and Replies, had not been deſerving the Name of a Negotiation. His Excellency then recurred, to what he had ſo often mentioned on many former Occaſions, when our Differences had been the Subject we were treating upon, ſaying, That, if *England* would preſerve that good Faith ſhe had ever picqued herſelf upon, and which he did not deny to be the general Characteriſtick of the *Britiſh* Nation, How could our Miniſtry either avoid, decline, or delay, giving Satisfaction to *Spain*, with regard to the illegal Settlements we withheld from this Crown upon the Logwood Coaſts? where we owned there were Eſtabliſhments contrary to the Territorial Juriſdiction of his Catholick Majeſty; therefore, the nobleſt, the greateſt, and the only honourable Expedient for the adjuſting of our Diſputes, would be, for *England* firſt to ſend Orders for the Evacuation of all our Forts, and at the ſame Time to withdraw all the Artillery which had been depoſited within ſome Entrenchments where Cannon was mounted for the Defence of them: Was it an amicable Proceeding, his Excellency ſaid, to profeſs a Friendſhip for a Power, and to be gradually invading their Dominions; to uſurp their Coaſts, and then to perſevere in maintaining an unjuſt Poſſeſſion of what we had no Right to hold, but ſeemed determined to keep, as Pledges for compelling *Spain* to grant us the Logwood we ſtood in need of, eſpecially after the moſt ſolemn, moſt authentick, and repeated Aſſurances that had been given, under a Royal Promiſe, that *England* ſhould enjoy that beneficial Trade of Logwood; and moreover, that, until ſome equitable Regulation of that Commerce could be ſettled, to the mutual Satisfaction of both Crowns, the *Engliſh* Logwood Cutters ſhould, upon no Pretence whatever, be diſturbed in felling, or in carrying away, that Commodity; if the Orders, his Excellency added, were but given for demoliſhing the Fortifications, and a Copy of thoſe Orders tranſmitted to the King's Ambaſſador here, to be delivered to his Catholick Majeſty's Miniſters, it would at once ſilence the Court of *Verſailles*, and take off the principal Handle they made uſe of, to exaſperate the *Spaniſh* Nation againſt *Great Britain*.

With regard to the *Newfoundland* Fiſhery, M. *Wall* urged, what I have alſo conveyed in ſome former Diſpatches, that the *Spaniards*, indeed, pleaded, in favour of their Claim to a Share of the *Bacallao* Trade, the firſt Diſcovery of that Iſland; but acknowledged they never had, or indeed ever required, any Eſtabliſhments there: And, what had principally given Offence here, as to that Article, was my being ſo frequently ordered to declare, and the Conde *de Fuentes* having been as often told, that *England* would never hear of that inadmiſſible Pretenſion, which was denying, in the moſt peremptory Manner, what we had granted by the *Spaniſh* Treaty of 1721 (confirmed by that of *Aix la Chapelle*) That the *Biſcayners* and *Guipuſcoans* ſhould enjoy thoſe Privileges which they could prove to be their Due by Right.

Then

Then the *Spaniſh* Miniſter ſaid, He could not diſguiſe from me the unfavourable Impreſſion all *Europe* had received, from our breaking off ſo abruptly the Negotiations carrying on between *England* and *France* for their ſeparate Peace; ſince the Conditions the *French* had complied with were ſuch, as no One, who had not read the Accounts of what they had agreed to, could have believed the Court of *Verſailles* would ever have conſented to, by making ſuch extenſive Sacrifices to the *Engliſh*; and added, ſince we were not contented with thoſe Offers from our Enemies, our Continuation of the War, to obtain ſtill higher Terms, could not avoid giving Jealouſy to all other Maritime Powers, who muſt apprehend too great a Balance being flung into the ſingle Scale of *Great Britain*.

This, my Lord, to the beſt of my Recollection, and according to the Minutes I took, of the Heads of our Diſcourſe, as ſoon as our ſeveral Conferences were over, was the principal Subject Matter of what paſſed, during our various Meetings: Two Things only, on the Peruſal of my Notes, I perceive, I have omitted touching upon; The firſt was, that, as the Coaſts of *Honduras*, and *Campeachy*, ſeem to be ſo indifferently laid down, by the Variety of Geographers who have publiſhed Maps of thoſe Weſtern Parts, or ſo inaccurately deſcribed, in any of the Charts I have been able to meet with, I deſired General *Wall*, one Day, to point out to me the Poſition of *Rio Tinto*, the River *Wallis*, and the *Laguna Azul*, the Three Places ſo often quoted, as the *Engliſh* Uſurpations; And his Excellency ſhewed me their Situations, acknowledging to me, that their Names were not inſerted in any Maps; for the *Spaniards* had never publiſhed thoſe Drawings their own Engineers had made, which included every Creek, upon the Logwood, and all other their Coaſts in *America*. *Rio Tinto* (which the *Engliſh* call *Black Water*) is not many Leagues diſtant from *Cape Gracias a Dios*, a Promontory, that advances in the Sea at the *Rincon*, or Corner of the *Moſquito* Shore, about the Fourteenth Degree of Northern Latitude. The River *Wallis* is almoſt oppoſite to the Iſland of *Ratan*, where the *Engliſh* had ſettled themſelves, during the laſt War; but which the Court of *London* had, at the Solicitation of that of *Madrid*, cauſed to be evacuated, after the Peace in 1748; when thoſe very Settlers only removed from the Iſland to the Continent, and formed the Eſtabliſhment now ſubſiſting at the River *Wallis*: And that lays, according to what was pointed out to me, between the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Degree of Northern Latitude. The Third, laſt, and moſt inconſiderable Settlement, is upon the *Laguna Azul*, a Lake not far diſtant from the Bay of *Aſcenſion*, which is in the Neighbourhood of a *Spaniſh* Town, called *Salamanca de Bacalar*, about the Eighteenth Northern Degree.

The Second Point that ſlipped my Notice, was, when M. *Wall* and I had been diſcuſſing the Subſtance of the Memorial, preſented by the Court of *France*, in relation to the *Spaniſh* Claims, his Excellency ſolemnly proteſted to me, the Catholick King, upon finding how unacceptable that Propoſal

was to *England*, had ſent peremptory Orders to the Marquis *Grimaldi*, not to let the Pretenſions of this Court, in the leaſt interfere with the Progreſs of Mr. *Stanley*'s and M. *Buſſy*'s Negotiations; and therefore to drop any farther Mention of them, leſt they might be reputed an Impediment to the Concluſion of a Peace between *England* and *France*; which was the ſtrongeſt Proof his Catholick Majeſty could give, of his ſincere Intentions, in wiſhing to have the Diſputes of *Spain* amicably adjuſted with *Great Britain*. I could not avoid obſerving to M. *Wall*, the little real Cordiality there was in the *French* Profeſſions towards this Court, or Sincerity in their Declarations and Offers to accommodate our unhappy Differences with *Spain*; ſince every One was convinced, the moſt Chriſtian King muſt deſire to prevent our enjoying ſo advantageous a Trade, as that of Logwood: At the ſame Time, that the *French* Intereſt was too well underſtood by their Miniſtry, not to dread, above all Things, the *Spaniards* being ever let into the ſmalleſt Share of the *Bacallao* Trade; as it would ſo eſſentially affect their own extenſive, as well as lucrative Branch of Commerce in that Commodity, which it had been agreed in our *Ultimatum*, to leave them in the Poſſeſſion of, according to the Stipulations relative thereto, in the Peace of *Utrecht*.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *ſecret and confidential, dated* Madrid, Dec. 6, 1761. *Received* Jan. 9, 1762.

My LORD,

YOUR Lordſhip has acquainted me, in your ſecret and confidential Letter, that His Majeſty had been pleaſed to determine, neither to confine me in relation to the Method of opening myſelf to General *Wall*, on the important Subject of your moſt ſecret Diſpatch, nor to preſcribe whether I ſhould communicate the Subſtance of it verbally, or truſt the Whole, or any Part thereof, out of my Hands; as it was imagined from the Time I have had the Honour of being employed at this Court, I ought to be able to judge what Kind of Compliment, or Degree of Confidence, would beſt lead me to ſucceed in the delicate Commiſſion at preſent left to my Management. I muſt deſire to refer your Lordſhip for all Particulars to my moſt ſecret Letter of this Date; wherein you will ſee, that, ſo far from receiving that Communication I ſo eagerly ſolicited, it has not been poſſible for me to obtain any ſolemn Aſſurances of the Innocence of the Treaty in Queſtion, altho' I am perſuaded in my own Mind, there are no unfriendly Intentions therein (to *Great Britain*)

which

which Aſſurances your Lordſhip directed me not to reject, in caſe they were propos'd, but to admit of them *ad referendum*, to be tranſmitted to my own Court; provided, " They were given upon his Catholick Majeſty's Royal " Word, ſignified in Writing, either by the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State to me, " or by the Conde *de Fuentes* to your Lordſhip, and not otherwiſe."

In lieu whereof, I have only procured the Copy of General *Wall*'s Diſpatch to the Conde *de Fuentes*: Your Lordſhip will there obſerve, that, in conſequence of my repeated Inſtances, the *Spaniſh* Miniſter has directed M. *de Fuentes* to give an Anſwer to my Notes, to the King's Secretary of State, by Word of Mouth, or in Writing if it was neceſſary: ſince I could not compaſs all I was directed to require, at leaſt it will not, I hope, be thought, that I have been remiſs in the Performance of my Duty, after your Lordſhip recollects, the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador had expreſſed his Wiſhes to have the Buſineſs conveyed through another Channel, rather than by himſelf, that, notwithſtanding ſuch a Reluctance in his Excellency to enter into this Affair, he receives Orders from his Court, to explain the Sentiments of *Spain* in Writing. Would thoſe Sentiments had been more explicit, and more ſatisfactorily conformable to the Purport of my Inſtructions.

If your Lordſhip has taken the Trouble of looking over ſome of my Letters to Mr. *Pitt*, you will have ſeen the Motives I frequently had for delivering to the *Spaniſh* Miniſter written Notes, of what paſſed when our Meetings were long, and upon delicate or intereſting Subjects, which I choſe doing in that Manner for greater Preciſion, beſides having ſo great a Certainty of the Catholick King's being minutely acquainted with every Argument I had made uſe of, to enforce the Validity of our Cauſe, at the ſame Time, that it was an Aſſiſtance to General *Wall*'s Memory, which his Excellency repeatedly told me, He did not chuſe to confide in, without ſome Memorandums in Writing.

The Paper mark'd (A), is what I put into General *Wall*'s Hands, according to my former Cuſtom, which is an Abſtract of the moſt eſſential Parts of your Lordſhip's moſt ſecret Letter, and a ſummary Account of all I expatiated upon, more at large, in our ſeveral Conferences. The Two Incloſures, diſtinguiſhed by the Letters B and C, are the Copy and Tranſlation of M. *Wall*'s private Diſpatch to the Conde *de Fuentes*, which is a *Precis* of all the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State alledged, either to confute my Reaſonings, or to ſupport his own Aſſertions.

I could not deny myſelf the Satisfaction, of reading to General *Wall*, by far the greater Part of your Lordſhip's moſt ſecret Diſpatch; this Mark of Confidence I have frequently obſerved towards the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, when I have been left at Liberty with regard to the Mode of communicating any of my Orders, and, in the preſent Conjuncture, it would have been ill-timed in me to have withdrawn from his Excellency that Proof of my Truſt in him, more eſpecially as your Lordſhip had adviſed me moſt cautiouſly to avoid any Mark of offenſive Diffidence; beſides, I thought it could only do Honour to your Lordſhip's Sentiments and Stile, to point out to the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State, the conciliating Directions which

you had enjoined me to put in Practice, whilſt I was urging any Matters, as you recommended their being done in the moſt polite and friendly Terms, as well as my inſinuating gently thoſe Arguments, which were ſuggeſted to me to advance.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Tranſlation of a Paper delivered the 18*th* Nov. 1761. (A).

THE King has learnt, with particular Satisfaction, the Juſtice of His Catholick Majeſty, in giving Orders for the Reſtitution of the Ship the *Speedwell*; and His Majeſty is equally ſenſible of the Moderation, with which the Privateer the *King George* has been treated; The Count *de Fuentes* having given a Memorial, complaining of the Behaviour of the ſaid Privateer, the moſt exact Enquiries are to be immediately begun, and, as ſoon as the Facts are proved, a ſuitable Satisfaction, agreeable to our Laws, will be given to the Court of *Spain*.

Having communicated to the Secretary of State, in a Diſpatch of the Month of *September* laſt (agreeably to the Aſſurances I had then received) his Catholick Majeſty's Intention to cultivate a good Correſpondence with the King; I have been expreſsly ordered to teſtify the real Pleaſure, which ſuch a Declaration, of the Sentiments of this Court, has occaſioned: And I muſt not omit to aſſure, that no Order has been ſent for augmenting the Fortifications of *Gibraltar*, conſequently they have only been working there on the uſual Repairs.

His Majeſty having nothing more at Heart, than to maintain and ſtrengthen the moſt cordial, and the moſt ſincere Friendſhip with the Catholick King, does not doubt of meeting with the ſame Diſpoſitions as His, on the Part of *Spain*: For there is nothing more evident, than the mutual Advantage which muſt, at all Times, reſult to the Two Kingdoms by ſuch a Reciprocity.

After this Declaration, it is not ſurprizing, that the Court of *London* deſires and demands, of the *Spaniſh* Miniſters, a Communication of the Treaty lately concluded between their Catholick and moſt Chriſtian Majeſties; or that they would impart the Articles which may be thought relative now, or in future, directly, or leſs immediately, to the Intereſts of *Great Britain*. Theſe Inſtances do not proceed from any diſadvantageous Suſpicion of the Aſſurances of Friendſhip, ſo often repeated by *Spain* to the Court of *London*: They only tend to obtain ſome Explanation, with regard to the Language which the King's Enemies have affected to hold; namely, that *Spain* was on the Point of taking Part in the preſent War, by joining *France* againſt *England*. Such are the Reports which have made ſo rapid a Progreſs in all *Europe*; and the King's Honour is concerned in putting a Stop to them, as far as the Intereſts of

His People require their being contradicted; without which, How can His Majeſty perſuade himſelf to enter into a Negotiation with *Spain*, for accommodating the Differences which have unhappily ſubſiſted, for ſo long Time, between the Two Courts? The Catholick King is informed of all the Alliances and Engagements of *Great Britain*; and it would be an unfriendly Reſerve, at this Conjuncture, not to comply with giving His Majeſty this Satisfaction on the Contents of a Treaty, ſo recently ſigned with a Power actually at War with the King; and eſpecially, when *France* does not ceaſe to give out, that the Conditions of this new Engagement tend towards Hoſtilities which *Spain* will, very ſoon, manifeſt againſt the *Britiſh* Nation.

This Obſtacle once removed, His Majeſty is determined, without Loſs of Time, to enter into an amicable Diſcuſſion of the Matters, which make the Subject of the Diſputes of the Two Crowns; not at all doubting, but that they may be eaſily adjuſted; and being convinced, that a reciprocal and extenſive Confidence will not fail to ſuggeſt Expedients, for ſaving the Dignity, and the Honour, of the Two Kings, and for adjuſting, to the reciprocal Satisfaction of their Majeſties, every Thing that has, till now, retarded that ſolid and permanent Harmony, which has always been the Object, the Wiſhes, the Sollicitude, and the Deſires, of thoſe who wiſh the eſſential Advantages, and the true Glory, of the Two Monarchies.

In order to prevent every perverſe Impreſſion, which the Change that has juſt happened in the *Engliſh* Miniſtry might occaſion, it is neceſſary to declare, that the moſt perfect Unanimity now reigns in the King's Councils; and that it is reſolved there, to continue the War with all poſſible Vigour; His Majeſty, however, only wiſhing for the Moment to put an End to the terrible Misfortunes, which are the inevitable Conſequences of it, as ſoon as He ſhall find His Enemies diſpoſed to make Peace, on Conditions which may correſpond to the Succeſſes with which Providence has been pleaſed to bleſs the King's Arms, and which ſhall, at the ſame Time, give Appearances of a ſolid and durable Peace, after all the Miſeries which have been ſuffered during the Courſe of theſe laſt Years

Paper received 3 Dec. 1761. *Tranſlation.* (C)

Moſt Excellent SIR,

MY Lord *Briſtol* delivered to me, ſome Days ago, the Memorial, whereof I ſend you a Copy. In the firſt Paragraph is ſeen the Satisfaction of his Court at the King's Juſtice, in cauſing the *Engliſh* Ship the *Speedwell* to be reſtored; and at the Moderation with which the Offence of the *King George* Privateer had been chaſtized, to which there is nothing to reply, only, That his Majeſty is glad that the Miniſtry acknowledge the Uprightneſs and Moderation of his Proceedings.

In

In the Second Paragraph, my Lord *Briſtol* ſets forth, that, having wrote in *September* to his Court, the Intention he had been aſſured of by us, in which the King was, of cultivating a good Correſpondence with the King of *Great Britain*, he had been ordered to declare the real Pleaſure ſuch a Declaration, from us, had given. I do not remember having made it then in a more particular Manner than at many other Times; nor do I comprehend the Motive for their making ſuch a Point of it; However, it is certain, That in the various Occaſions that have preſented themſelves, in the Life-time of King *Ferdinand* (who is in Heaven) as well as of the King our Lord (whom God ſave) the *Spaniſh* Miniſters have repeated the Wiſhes of their Court, to cultivate the beſt Correſpondence with that of *London*. My Lord adds, in the ſame Paragraph, That he can aſcertain, that no Order has been tranſmitted for increaſing the Fortifications of *Gibraltar*; which does not ſurprize the King, as he has given no Room for the leaſt Miſtruſt; nor would the Contrary ſurprize him, the *Engliſh* being as much the Maſters to increaſe them, as his Majeſty is any one Place of his own.

My Lord *Briſtol* continues, in another Paragraph, to expreſs, That there is nothing the King, His Maſter, has ſo much at Heart, as to form a cloſer and more ſincere Friendſhip with the King, our Lord; and that he does not doubt finding the ſame Diſpoſitions on the Part of *Spain*; the mutual Advantages that will accrue to both Nations therefrom, being evident: And all this is in order to come, by Degrees, to what, after ſuch a Declaration, was not to ſurprize us; that his Court ſhould deſire and aſk of the *Spaniſh* Miniſters, the Communication of the Treaty lately concluded between their Catholick and moſt Chriſtian Majeſties, or the Articles that relate to *England*. Your Excellency knows how eaſy it would be for the King to give a direct Anſwer; but his own Decorum prevents him, from the Conſideration, that this Demand is made as a compulſive Condition for commencing a Negotiation with *Spain*, about Differences which are confeſſed to have ſubſiſted ſo long *. Who ever heard ſpeak of commencing a Negotiation, would think that, hitherto, nothing had been negociated about our Differences; and beſides, would believe, that their conſidering them as worthy of negotiating, was doing us a Favour.

* Sans quoi, comment S. M. pourroit elle ſe perſuader à entamer une Negociation avec l'*Eſpagne*, &c.

It is a very ſingular Method in that Miniſtry of miſunderſtanding ſo many Offices, Memorials, and Conferences, which have paſſed for theſe Six Years thereupon, and particularly ſince the King ſent your Excellency to that Court, proving the inconteſtible Grounds of our Complaints and juſt Cares, and repeating, that, without ſatisfying them, it is impoſſible to fix the good Correſpondence of the Two Monarchies, nor the Friendſhip of the Two Monarchs, ſo deſerving of each others Love. If all that has been declared by Word of Mouth, or in Writing, the Anſwers and Replies that have intervened, the Points that have been concluded upon, is not a Negotiation, I do not know what is called ſuch.

My Lord *Briſtol* offers, that, when the King our Lord ſhould declare himſelf upon the Exiſtence or Non-exiſtence of the ſuppoſed Treaty, or upon the Articles relating to the *Engliſh*, the King, his Maſter, † has determined to enter, without Loſs of Time, into a friendly Diſcuſſion of the Points which occaſion our Differences; not doubting but that they may be accommodated, and Expedients found out, for ſaving the Dignity and Honour of the Two Sovereigns. In his Court they muſt conſider only, as a mere Trifle, what they ſeek after; ſince, in Recompence, they only promiſe what we are already tired of practiſing. What greater Diſcuſſion upon the Points of our Diſputes can be made, than that which has been in ſo long a Negotiation? What Expedients can be fallen upon now to ſave the Honour of the Two Kings, which, in Arguments and Diſputes of Six Years, have not occurred? And if in *London* they are to be found, *Spain* is the Creditor for her Patience in the Purſuit of her Complaints, and for having ſeen the various Succeſſes of the War the *Engliſh* were carrying on, whilſt ſhe only propoſed, without offering to impoſe, Conditions upon that Account. The moſt noble Expedient, and which does the greateſt Honour to Kings, as well as to thoſe who are not ſo, is, not to withhold the Property of another unlawfully, but to reſtore, and even puniſh the Uſurpers, without minding (if it falls out ſo) from whom the injured Perſon aſks it.

† Cet Obſtacle une fois levé S. M. eſt determinée, &c.

My Lord *Briſtol* concludes with a Paragraph entirely foreign to our Buſineſs, declaring, that a perfect Unanimity ſubſiſts in the Councils of *Great Britain*; and, that the King was reſolved to continue the War with all poſſible Vigour, till he had reduced His Enemies to a Peace adequate to the Succeſſes of the *Engliſh* Arms, and which might have the Appearance of being a firm and laſting one. It is not directly our Intention to anſwer thereto; but the Two Points which the *Engliſh* deſire by the Peace, are contradicted evidently by what all the World has juſt ſeen. All impartial Perſons can decide, whether the Terms offered by the *French*, and refuſed by the *Engliſh*, do not beſpeak the Advantages of the *Engliſh* Arms; and their Inadmiſſion will be attributed by them to other Views, which ought not to be indifferent to the other Maritime Powers, and Proprietors of Dominions beyond Sea. And it muſt occaſion Surprize to them, that, if the Court of *London* deſires a Peace, that wears the Appearances of being firm and laſting, it ſhould pique itſelf upon that of *Paris*'s inſinuating, how neceſſary it would be to adjuſt, at the ſame Time, our Differences, to cut off all Riſk of its renewing the War in Favour of us.

My Lord *Briſtol* then, by means of another Memorial, aſked, if *France* had taken that Step with the King's Conſent, in the ſame Manner he now aſks us, Whether there is ſuch a Treaty, or not, with *France*? We anſwer frankly, Yes; proving the Regularity of it: And with this Motive we reply to the repeated Expreſſions of that Court, about deſiring a good Correſpondence with ours, eſteeming them as at all Times, however, thinking it was neceſſary, Effects ſhould have accompanied them; and as if ſuch a Memorial had never been

given by us, forgetting it entirely, they preſent us another, with a new Queſtion, with the ſame general Expreſſions, and the unexpected Novelty of offering to commence a Negotiation ſo long diſcuſſed, and ſo well digeſted, that it has been reduced, during your Excellency's Ambaſſy, to the laſt Yes, or laſt No.

Your Excellency, being thoroughly informed of every thing I have ſet forth, may tell it, or give it in Writing, if it is neceſſary, to that Miniſtry, in order that, upon no Account, it may charge us with leaving my Lord *Briſtol*'s Memorial unanſwered, and that it may acknowledge the Impropriety there is, that the King ſhould ſatisfy their Curioſity at every Turn, whilſt no Satisfaction is given to his juſt Demands.

Extract of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Madrid, Dec. 7, 9, & 11, 1761. *Received* Jan. 9, 1762.

THE Meſſenger *Potter* arrived here the 5th Inſtant, at Night, whilſt my Diſpatches dated the 6th of this Month, together with their voluminous Incloſures, were tranſcribing fair, in the Expectation of the Whole being ready to be ſent away from hence by *Ardouin* directly; but the very great Importance of your Lordſhip's Letters of the 19th paſt, determined me to ſuſpend the Departure of a Meſſenger, till I had communicated their Contents to General *Wall*, upon whoſe Anſwer depended a Matter of the higheſt Conſequence to both Crowns.

M. *Wall* was then confined to his Room, by an Accident which had happened to his Foot. Upon my writing a Note to his Excellency the 6th, early in the Morning, acquainting him with the Arrival of a Meſſenger from *England*, he appointed me to go to him at any Time after the Noon of that Day. As ſoon as the Catholick King's Court was over, I went to the *Spaniſh* Miniſter's, which was about 1 o'Clock. I began directly, by telling his Excellency, that the great Surprize and Sorrow he muſt have obſerved in me at the Eſcurial, after that memorable Converſation we had together, ſeveral Particulars of which I reminded him of, had occaſioned equal Aſtoniſhment and Concern in *England*; and, for that Reaſon, freſh Inſtructions had been tranſmitted to me, without even waiting for my Anſwer to your Lordſhip's Diſpatches of the 28th of *October*. I did not attempt to diſguiſe the Alarm his Excellency's Diſcourſe had raiſed at my Court, which, as it was my Duty, I had related immediately after it had been held to me, as nearly as I could recollect, in the Phraſes he had made uſe of, ſaying, That ſuch an unprovoked Tranſition in his Language, ſo diametrically oppoſite to the pleaſing Aſſurances I had received at St. *Ildephonſo*, of the Catholick King's Reſolution to cultivate the cloſeſt Correſpondence with His Majeſty, had filled the *Engliſh* Miniſtry with Amaze;

Amaze; and more particularly ſo, as the Count of *Fuentes* had lately called your Lordſhip aſide, to acquaint you, that he had given ſtrong Aſſurances of the friendly Diſpoſition of the King his Maſter, and of his ſteady Purpoſe to maintain the ſtricteſt Amity with *Great Britain*, at an Audience to which his Excellency had been admitted to deliver a Letter from the Catholick King to His Majeſty.

Yet the King, religiouſly obſervant of all His ſolemn Declarations, and equally attentive to His Own Dignity, as well as to the Intereſts of His Subjects, was determined coolly and firmly to acquit Himſelf of thoſe indiſpenſable Duties.

I then went thro' the ſeveral Topicks contained in your Lordſhip's Letter, by expatiating very amply on the Injuſtice that *Spain* did to the Purity of the King's Intentions; ſince His Majeſty had been particularly delicate in cauſing ſuch Military Plans to be concerted, as might avoid Hoſtilities towards thoſe Objects that could give the leaſt Umbrage to the Catholick King. I dwelt upon the Notoriety there was, that every thing in the Royal Councils, which could tend towards the Interruption of a friendly Intelligence between our Courts (which His Majeſty was ſo ſolicitous to maintain) had alſo been avoided. Then I proceeded to renew my former Inquiries about the Treaty lately concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Verſailles*; and, finally, to aſk a categorical Anſwer relative to *Spain*'s Intention, with regard to *Great Britain*, in this critical Conjuncture, which the King found Himſelf under the diſagreeable Neceſſity of demanding; but I added, immediately after, that I was certain, and would venture to declare, that there was nothing could more eſſentially contribute to His Majeſty's real Satisfaction, than my being able to procure ſuch an Anſwer from hence, as might contribute to the Continuation of that amicable Intercourſe, which it could not be more the Intereſts of both Courts to uphold, that it was the King's ſincere Deſire to cultivate: Before I diſcontinued, I took particular Care to be explicit with regard to His Majeſty's Sentiments, which were to be only attributed to the Rectitude of His Royal Mind; And the Declaration I made of the King's Moderation, was accompanied with the fulleſt Aſſurances that could be given, to prevent any falſe or injurious Interpretation, conſtruing what I had advanced, concerning the King's Deſire of maintaining Peace with *Spain* (provided that Deſire was reciprocal on his Catholick Majeſty's Part) to proceed from any Timidity or Apprehenſion on the King's Side.

It was not poſſible to liſten with a more obliging Attention, than M. *Wall* did, to all I have juſt mentioned. He never interrupted me, but anſwered me friendlily, when I appealed to him upon any Point. Your Lordſhip will, no doubt, obſerve, how much I have here waved touching upon any Subject that could be laid hold of as offenſive, or that might even collaterally tend to irritate the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, according to what was preſcribed to me; which was, to avoid mixing any Thing in my Converſation, which could have

have a Tendency to indiſpoſe General *Wall*. Indeed I muſt do his Excellency the Juſtice to ſay, there never appeared the ſmalleſt Degree of Warmth, or the leaſt Inclination towards any Harſhneſs, during our whole Conference. He reaſoned candidly with me, and minutely; He ſaid, the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador had Orders to make the Profeſſions of the Catholick King's Friendſhip towards His Majeſty, which he had accompanied with the Letter he preſented: He owned how cautious we had been, to avoid attacking thoſe Poſſeſſions belonging to our Enemies, which had any Connections with the *Spaniſh* Territory; and agreed with me, concerning the Publicity of what had paſſed in His Majeſty's Councils, upon the Change of the *Engliſh* Miniſtry; not forgetting to mention what had given Riſe to the late Reſignation of the Seals. M. *Wall* then ſaid, the Copy he had delivered to me, of his own Diſpatch, to the Count of *Fuentes*, was the only Anſwer he could give to my Enquiries about the Treaty; That, as to the Intention of *Spain*, with regard to *Great Britain*, which I then preſſed to be informed of, he added, I muſt be ſenſible, it was not in his Power to give an immediate Anſwer, from not being ſufficiently authorized to do it, but promiſed that he would acquaint his Catholick Majeſty with my freſh Solicitations, and would not fail communicating, faithfully, all I had expreſſed, concerning the King's Sentiments and Diſpoſition.

As I had taken ſome Notes (from which I ſpoke) that I might omit nothing I had determined to mention; the *Spaniſh* Secretary of State aſked me, whether I would conſent to his tranſcribing them, for greater Accuracy, when he was to impart to his Catholick Majeſty, the very important and delicate Conference we had had together; I directly gave his Excellency a Copy of the Paper herein incloſed, marked (A) which he promiſed ſhould be literally tranſlated into *Spaniſh*, before it was preſented to the King of *Spain*.

You will, perhaps, my Lord, be ſurpriſed to find, I have, in this Viſit, only dwelt in general Terms, concerning the Intention of *Spain*, with regard to *England*: I beg of you to ſuſpend forming any Judgement about my Conduct therein, till I have explained my Motive for acting in that Manner. I perceived General *Wall*'s Tone to be of ſo conciliating a Nature, he expreſſed his Wiſhes ſo ſtrongly, that ſome Method might be found out for an amicable Adjuſtment of our Differences; and was ſo far from dropping the leaſt Word, that could make me imagine *Spain* intended to act hoſtilely againſt us, that I began to flatter myſelf, I might obtain the categorical Anſwer I was ordered to demand, without the *Spaniſh* Miniſter's ſuſpecting my ultimate Orders. When I was going out of his Room, he took me by the Hand, and ſaid, with a Smile, he hoped; but there he ſtopped. I aſked him what he hoped, that I might alſo hope, and that all might concur in the ſame Hopes: But his Excellency only then bowed, and took his Leave of me.

Your Lordſhip will, no doubt, have remarked, that, from the Time of *Potter*'s Departure with my Diſpatches of the 2d paſt, the Stile of the *Spaniſh* Miniſter has been ſoftening gradually. What had occaſioned the great Fermentation during that Period at this Court, the Effects of which, I felt from General *Wall*'s animated Diſcourſe at the Eſcurial, was, the Notice having, about that Time, reached the Catholick King, that the Change which had happened in the *Engliſh* Adminiſtration, was relative to Meaſures propoſed to be taken againſt this Country: Hence aroſe that ſudden Wrath and Paſſion, which, for a ſhort Time, affected the whole *Spaniſh* Court; as it was thought moſt extraordinary here, that the declaring War againſt the Catholick King, ſhould ever have been moved in His Majeſty's Councils, ſince the *Spaniards* have always looked upon themſelves as the aggrieved Party; and, of courſe, never could imagine, that the *Engliſh* would be the Firſt to begin a War with them.

Dec. 9.

I received, late in the Evening of the 7th, a Note from M. *Wall*, deſiring me to return to him on the next Morning, the 8th; which I punctually complied with. His Excellency ſaid, he had not been able to ſtir out; but, having received his Catholick Majeſty's Commands in relation to our Conference on the 6th, he would not delay communicating them to me. They conſiſted in the King of *Spain*'s being ſenſible of all the Aſſurances of Friendſhip, and Marks of Attention, which had been conveyed thro' my Means: But I was to be informed, That, with regard to the Treaty, and the Intentions of *Spain*, M. *Wall*'s Diſpatch to the Count of *Fuentes* (Copy of which had been delivered to me) was the only Anſwer the Catholick King judged it expedient to give. I preſſed the *Spaniſh* Miniſter to open himſelf more fully upon this moſt important Subject; as I thought it impoſſible ſo conciſe an Anſwer could be given to all I had urged to his Excellency.

Unfortunately, General *Wall* had not been able to ſee his Catholick Majeſty; and, therefore, having only wrote, and received a written Anſwer, that accounted, in ſome Meaſure, for it's being ſo laconick.

I then reminded the *Spaniſh* Miniſter of the preſſing Endeavours I had employed at our laſt Meeting, to obtain a ſatisfactory Anſwer; alledging, that, as I had not been able to obtain a Communication of the Treaty, nor the Alternative which I had propoſed, I was now neceſſitated to come to a more particular Explanation of what I had mentioned in general concerning *Spain*'s Intention with regard to *Great Britain*; therefore I was commanded to declare to his Excellency, that my Court expected to have a categorical Anſwer to the following Queſtions; Whether the Catholick King intended to join the *French*, our Enemies, or purpoſed acting hoſtilely? or would, in any Manner, depart from his Neutrality? adding, That *Spain*'s refuſing to comply with giving this Satisfaction, would be deemed an Aggreſſion on the Part of the Court of *Madrid*, and a Declaration of War.

I cannot

I cannot deſcribe the Surpriſe M. *Wall* expreſſed at hearing this. He only brought out theſe Words: What is to follow? You have then Orders to withdraw from hence. I told him, he muſt eaſily imagine what would enſue, if *Spain* did not diſavow any Intentions to take Part with our declared Enemies; for I was ordered to ſignify, That ſuch a Refuſal would be looked upon, by His Majeſty, in no other Light, than as an abſolute Declaration of War.

He told me, the categorical Anſwer I was ordered to require, was ſuch an Attack upon the Catholick King's Dignity, that it was impoſſible for him to give any Advice to his Sovereign upon ſo delicate a Subject; which Dignity could not be imagined to be leſs dear to Kings, than a common Decorum was to Subjects: He afterwards mentioned writing to his Catholick Majeſty what had paſſed between us, and conveying the Subſtance of my Inſtructions in that Manner, as he was not able to go himſelf, and relate them verbally. You may be aſſured, my Lord, I remonſtrated ſtrongly againſt his ſtaying in his Chair at home, and his not going in Perſon to offer his Advice, and to declare his Opinion, in Words, when it muſt be ſo much wanted. I entreated his Excellency to reflect, that the Lives of Thouſands, the Ruin of Thouſands of Thouſands, and the Diſtreſſes of whole Nations, were now depending upon the final Reſolution of the *Spaniſh* Councils; for as I had conferred with no other Miniſter than himſelf, where were thoſe, who could be ſuppoſed to be able to make a faithful Report, or lay the proper Streſs, and repeat all the Arguments, I had been ordered to employ, to ſhew the Expediency and the Neceſſity of ſuch an Anſwer as I had required, if any ſuch Perſons could be found willing to undertake it. I urged to the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, the abſolute Neceſſity of his being carried out, at all Events, to the *Buen Retiro*, and there to ſet forth the fatal Conſequences that muſt inevitably attend *Spain*'s not giving me a preciſe Anſwer: Beſides, I enforced to M. *Wall*, all that the World would infer, whatever his Friends muſt think, or his Enemies would ſay, upon his ſtaying in his own Houſe, and only writing to his Catholick Majeſty, where the Fate of ſo many Countries were involved in the Deciſion of the preſent Affair: I recommended to him, for the Sake of Humanity in general, not to let any raſh or precipitated Meaſure be taken; but, after duly weighing the infinite Importance of theſe Queſtions, to let me receive ſuch Anſwers, as might enable the Two Crowns to continue a mutual friendly Intercourſe, unallayed by Suſpicions, and totally clear of all Doubts. General *Wall*, for greater Preciſion, deſired me to put into Writing what I was ordered to demand: I took his Pen, and wrote down the ſhort Sentences I incloſe a Copy of, indorſed (B).

Dec. 11, 1761.

As I knew General *Wall* was not able to ſtir from off his Chair, till Yeſterday the 10th, that he went to the Palace of the *Buen Retiro*, and held the accuſtomed *Deſpacho*, in the Preſence of his Catholick Majeſty; it was in vain for

me to preſs for an Anſwer, which was not in his Power to give, without receiving the King of *Spain*'s Commands.

At Eleven o'Clock laſt Night, I received Two Letters from his Excellency; Thoſe marked 1, and 2, are the Copy and Tranſlation of the Office; that which is numbered 3, is the Copy of a private Note, entirely in General *Wall*'s own Hand, to which I ſent an Anſwer immediately, Copy whereof is diſtinguiſhed by the Number 4.

It is unneceſſary for me to dwell upon the Deciſion of this moſt important Affair; beſides, that I ſhall be able, at my Return to *England*, to relate minutely to your Lordſhip, many Circumſtances too tedious to be inſerted in a Letter.

M. *Wall*, the laſt Time I ſaw him, ſaid ſo much, concerning the Catholick King's very particlar Partiality towards me, that I thought it could not be amiſs in me, to take the laſt Opportunity, which was likely to preſent itſelf, of teſtifying the Impreſſion his Catholick Majeſty's Sentiments about me, had made upon my Mind.

Notwithſtanding, I have been, and ſtill continue, indiſpoſed, I propoſe ſetting out as ſoon as it is poſſible; but thoſe, who are unacquainted with *Spain*, can have no Idea of the Difficulties attending a Journey from hence.

I beg your Lordſhip to believe, that I have exerted my utmoſt Efforts for His Majeſty's Service, and the Welfare of my Country, ſince I have had the Honour of being employed here. Nothing is left for me now to add, but to lament my ſincere Endeavours to preſerve a Union between the Two Crowns, having been ſo unſucceſsful. God ſend Proſperity to the King's righteous Cauſe; And may *Great Britain*, in the Courſe of the enſuing War, prove, that the combined Forces of *Spain* and *France* are not ſufficient to eclipſe her Glory, or to cope with her Strength.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of Notes given to General Wall, *at our firſt Conference, Sunday the* 6th Dec. 1761. (A)

COUNT of *Fuentes* accompanied the Catholick King's Letter to His Majeſty, with the ſtrongeſt Profeſſions of Friendſhip from *Spain*.

The King's particular Delicacy in concerting Military Plans, to avoid Hoſtilities towards Objects that could give Umbrage to his Catholick Majeſty.

How

How notorious it was, That every thing in the King's Councils, which could tend to break through a good Underſtanding between our Courts (which His Majeſty is ſo anxious to preſerve) had been avoided.

An Anſwer concerning the Treaty; as well as to know the Intention of *Spain*, with regard to *Great Britain*.

Nothing could more eſſentially give a real Satisfaction to His Majeſty, than my procuring ſuch an Anſwer, as might contribute to the Continuation of that friendly Intercourſe, which it is not more the Intereſt of both Crowns to maintain, than it is the King's ſincere Deſire to cultivate.

Copy of Notes wrote down in General Wall's *Cloſet, and given by me to his Excellency, at our Second Conference*, Tueſday *the* 8th Dec. 1761. (B.)

WHether the Court of *Madrid* intends to join the *French*, our Enemies, to act hoſtilely againſt *Great Britain*, or to depart in any Manner from its Neutrality?

A categorical Anſwer is expected to thoſe Queſtions; otherwiſe, a Refuſal to comply, will be looked upon as an Aggreſſion on the Part of *Spain*, and a Declaration of War.

General Wall, B. Retiro, 10 Dec. 1761. *Tranſlation* (2)

Moſt Excellent Lord;

My LORD,

YOUR Excellency having expreſſed to me the Day before Yeſterday, and being even pleaſed to put in Writing, that you had Orders to aſk a poſitive and categorical Anſwer to the Queſtion, If *Spain* thought of joining herſelf with *France* againſt *England?* declaring, at the ſame Time, that you ſhould look upon the Refuſal as a Declaration of War; and that you would, in conſequence, leave this Court: The Spirit of Haughtineſs, and of Diſcord, which dictated this inconſiderate Step, and which, for the Misfortune of Mankind, ſtill reigns ſo much in the *Britiſh* Government, is what made, in the ſame Inſtant, the Declaration of War, and attacked the King's Dignity. Your Excellency may think of retiring when, and in the Manner is convenient to you; which is the only Anſwer that, without detaining you, his Majeſty has ordered me to give you. The Indiſpoſition your Excellency ſaw me in, ſcarce permitted me to go to receive the King's Commands.

May your Excellency carry away with you all the Happineſs which correſpond to your perſonal Qualities, and the conſtant Remembrance of the ſincere Affection with which I am, praying God for the long Preſervation of your Life,

Buen Retiro, 10 *Dec.* 1761.

Moſt Excellent Lord,

I kiſs your Excellency's Hand,

Your obedient Servant,

D. RICARDO WALL.

General Wall, Madrid, 10 Dec. 1761. (3) *Tranſlation.*

My LORD,

MY Uneaſineſs, ever ſince the Moment that your Excellency communicated to me the Orders which you have received from your Court, has not permitted me to delay any longer your Excellency's Inſtances, full of Attention; and I have been (notwithſtanding my Indiſpoſition) to give an Account to the King my Maſter, of the laſt Queſtions which you have been ordered to put to my Court.

Your Excellency will ſee, by the incloſed Letter, what are his Majeſty's Sentiments; you know mine for your Perſon. I hope to have the Honour of ſeeing you, and confirming to you again, by Word of Mouth, the Eſteem and Reſpect with which I am perfectly,

My LORD,

Your Excellency's moſt obedient,

and moſt humble Servant,

WALL.

To General Wall, Madrid, Dec. 10, 1761. *Eleven o'Clock at Night.* (4)
Tranſlation.

SIR,

I Have juſt received your Excellency's Letter, dated to-day, with that which was therewith incloſed. No One can be more ſenſible than I am of the Sentiments with which his Catholick Majeſty honours me. Receive, Sir, my Acknowledgement for thoſe which you expreſs for me. I deſire your Excellency to cauſe the Catholick King's Paſs-ports to be prepared for me, in order that I may take the Route of *Portugal*, in conſequence of the Inſtructions which I have received from my Court to retire from hence. I have the Honour to be, with much Reſpect,

SIR,

Your Excellency's moſt humble

and moſt obedient Servant,

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Madrid, Dec. 11, 1761. *Received* Jan. 9, 1762. *Moſt Secret.*

My LORD,

HAVING anſwered, in my publick Letter of this Date, ſo exactly, to all that is contained in your Lordſhip's moſt ſecret one; I only write theſe few Words to acknowledge it, and to mention, that if I had only ſignified to the *Spaniſh* Miniſter the King's Commands (that a peremptory Refuſal to give Satisfaction, in relation to the categorical Anſwer; or that the not diſavowing any Intentions to take Part with our declared Enemies in the preſent War, would be looked upon by His Majeſty as an Aggreſſion on the Part of *Spain*, and an abſolute Declaration of War) without, at leaſt, not denying what would be the Conſequence of *Spain*'s not giving the Anſwer required; I mean my withdrawing myſelf from hence; I had reaſon to apprehend, that, had I waited to make known that Reſolution till after General *Wall* had ſeen his Catholick Majeſty, I might have received an Order to go away from hence; whereas, now it is known I had been firſt commanded by my own Court to take that Step.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Madrid, December 11, 1761. *Separate and Secret. Received* January 9, 1762.

My LORD,

IN obedience to the King's Commands, I took the earlieſt Opportunity, after *Potter*'s Arrival, of writing to Sir *Charles Saunders*, to Major General *Parſlow* at *Gibraltar*, and to all His Majeſty's Conſuls in *Spain*, as well as to Mr. *Hay*, that he might give the ſame Notice, to thoſe who are in *Portugal*, in order, that every one might put himſelf, and His Majeſty's Trading Subjects, properly on their Guard, on account of the critical Situation, in which our Court then ſtood with regard to *Spain*.

I have in vain aſked Leave, to diſpatch a Meſſenger for *Lisbon*, to obtain Paſſports from the Court of *Portugal* for myſelf, as was practiſed by Sir *Benjamin Keene*, for his Journey, when he left *Madrid* in the Year 1739. The Order for Poſt Horſes has been refuſed me; otherwiſe, I had prepared the ſeveral Letters His Majeſty had commanded me to write to Commodore *Keppel*, to Sir *Charles Saunders*, and Major General *Parſlow*. My Houſe is ſo ſurrounded with Spies; I am ſo much watched myſelf; and ſuch ſtrict Orders are given to ſtop every one going from *Madrid*; that even if a Perſon would conſent to go on this Errand, I could not truſt him; yet, I hope, a Method I have cauſed to be taken will convey the Intelligence to *Gibraltar*, and from thence it may ſoon reach Sir *Charles Saunders*.

It is not in my Power, nor could it be for the Service of His Majeſty, for me to ſet out ſo ſoon as I wiſh to do, in obedience to the King's Orders; I am, and have been for ſome Time, ſo much out of Order with a Return of my former Pains, that, were I to begin my Journey immediately, I ſhould be confined in my Bed, in ſome Village near *Madrid*, without a Poſſibility of continuing my Rout; therefore, as my Conſtitution has already ſuffered ſo much by this Climate, I hope the King's Clemency will pardon my not endangering it. As ſoon as it is poſſible, I will not delay my Departure, for which I am ſo very impatient.

I ſhall not venture ſending away this large Packet, of my ſeveral different dated Diſpatches, till I am out of the *Spaniſh* Dominions, leſt any Accident ſhould happen to the Bearer of them; but, I ſhall directly cauſe them to be ſealed up, ſo that they will be ready to be forwarded at all Times.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Briſtol *to the Earl of* Egremont, *dated* Elvas *in* Portugal, Dec. 26, 1761. *Received* January 9th, 1762.

My LORD,

I Left *Madrid* as ſoon as it was poſſible for me to get together what was neceſſary for a Journey in *Spain*, which is ſo unlike every other Country in *Europe* for Travelling. I received General *Wall*'s final Anſwer the 10th Inſtant, at Eleven o'Clock at Night; and I ſet out in the Morning of the 17th, with a Fever upon me, which I had had at leaſt Ten Days; but, as the Pains in my Stomach had diminiſhed, I determined to begin my Journey, let what would be the Conſequence of it.

The *Spaniſh* Miniſter refuſed letting me have an Order for Poſt-horſes, till I reached *Badajox*, the laſt Town in *Spain*; altho' I aſked for it, to ſend a Meſſenger to *Liſbon*, for Paſſports from his moſt Faithful Majeſty, that I might not be detained upon the Frontiers of *Portugal*.

I now deliver to the Meſſenger *Ardouin*, thoſe Diſpatches I was preparing to ſend your Lordſhip, even before the Arrival of *Potter*, as well as the Letters which contain the full Account of the preſent Rupture between *Great Britain* and *Spain*; and I ſhall write to Mr. *Hay*, to cauſe a Pacquet-boat to ſail directly with the Meſſenger, as ſoon as he reaches *Liſbon*.

I am, *&c.*

BRISTOL.

FINIS.

Copy of a Letter from the Duke of Grafton to the Earl of Egremont, dated Elvas in Portugal, Dec. 25, 1762. Received January 9th, 1763.

My LORD,

I left Madrid as soon as it was public for me to get together what was necessary for a Journey in Spain, which is the very safest Country in Europe for Travelling. I received Orders from a final Audience the 7th Instant, at Eleven o'Clock at Night; and I set out in the Morning of the 9th with a Fever upon me, which I had before I left Lisbon; but, as the Pain in my Stomach had diminished, I determined to begin my Journey, let what would be the Consequence of it.

The Spanish Minister refused letting me have an Order for Post-horses, till I reached Badajoz, the last Town in Spain; and I asked for it, to send a Messenger to Lisbon, for Passports from his own Court Publickly, that I might not be detained upon the Frontiers of Portugal.

I now deliver to the Messenger Mahony, those Dispatches I was preparing to send your Lordship, even before the Arrival of Peter, as well as the Letters which contain the full Account of the present Rupture between Great Britain and Spain; and I shall write to Mr. Hay, to cause a Packet-boat to sail directly with the Messenger, as soon as he reaches Lisbon.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

PLYMOUTH